

SCAN .

IAN RUSH GETS PEPTALK **SHOOT!**

28p

1st MAY, 1982

**'MY
WORLD CUP
DREAM'**
Danny McGrain

**'Northern Ireland
must halt slump'**

NOEL BROTHERSTON

**'WHY I'M
STAYING
WITH
WALES'**
Mike England

**'I'M WORTH MY
ENGLAND SPOT'**

Phil Thompson



STEVE COPPELL
in big colour action

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Welsh revival plan

MIKE England has made one of the most important decisions of his career in agreeing to continue as manager of Wales.

There were genuine fears that the former Tottenham centre-half would quit after Wales failed to graduate to the World Cup Finals for the first time in 24 years.

Mike England's confidence was badly bruised when Wales' strong hopes of going to Spain perished at Swansea seven months ago in a disappointing 2-2 draw with Iceland.

But typical of the stalwart veteran of 44 Welsh caps in the 60's and early 70's, England has buried his despair and re-emerged with a rallying battle cry on the eve of the British Championships.

He believes that the future of the national squad has never looked brighter.

SHOOT! view!

It is hard not to feel sorry for the Welsh boss. Scotland were always going to Spain on the strength of consistent performances from the beginning of the qualifying games.

Second in the betting were Wales, with England and Northern Ireland struggling to gain a place in the Finals.

Sadly, Wales were the only nation in the United Kingdom not to qualify in a bizarre climax to the qualifying games.

The Welsh are determined to restore their morale in the British Championship at the expense of their three more fortunate rivals. They have not won the title since 1969-70 but there is no fiercer, nor more determined battler than a Welshman when his pride has been hurt.

Nothing would give them more pleasure than to repeat that humiliating 4-1 drubbing of England at Wrexham two years ago.

Mike England would see that as a morale-boosting start to the relaunch of his career as a national team manager.

British Championship... British Championship... Bri

'ENGLAND'

NO disrespect to Wales, but playing against them in the British Championship doesn't usually give me sleepless nights.

England's match next Tuesday, however, is very special for me and I just can't keep it out of my mind.

There are two main reasons I'm sweating on Ron Greenwood putting my name down on the team sheet to play.

First, because it will give me a chance to consolidate my claim for a World Cup place — and at 28 I'm probably too old to get a second one for the next Finals in 1986.

Secondly, it'll help wipe out a very bad memory of the last occasion I played against the Red Dragons.

To appear for his country in a World Cup Finals, pitted against the finest internationals on earth, is the ultimate for a player. And I want to end my playing days with that highspot on my record.

So it's important to be selected for the vital "run-up" games and to make such an impression I'm first choice for my position in the opening game against France in Spain.

If I'm left out against Wales it'll be a blow to my hopes.

I'm no big head, but I'm convinced I'm worth a place in the England set-up. I've examined my credentials and in all honesty they fit me for the job.

No one can match my experience with club and country. In around ten years of playing in European competi-

tion for Liverpool I've battled against the cream of Continental talent and helped my club become the most successful in Britain.

I've played more than 30 times for England in all sorts of places with strange-sounding names, and against many of the other 23 World Cup Finalists.

I was also ever-present for England in the 1980 European Championship in Italy.

During England's run of World Cup qualifying games I missed only one — the 2-1 defeat in Switzerland —

really boost morale.

For Mike England's lads the British Championships is *their* World Cup Finals. They'll be out to beat us and the other two home qualifiers, Scotland and Northern Ireland, to prove they deserve to be in Spain.

Where the Welsh slipped up at the qualifying stage was in only drawing with unfancied Iceland at Ninian Park. I believe their mistake was being over-confident and using six forwards in expectation of a high-scoring win that would give them the two points plus a "safety net" of a superior goal-difference.

This game gives England the chance to avenge our last defeat on Welsh soil, at Wrexham in 1980, when they beat us 4-1 in the first Championship.

What makes the memory hurt more deeply for me was that I was captain on that day and put an own goal past our keeper Ray Clemence.

Which gives me an extra incentive — as if I needed it — to help tame The Red Dragons at Ninian Park, Cardiff.

The prospect of playing for the first time against my Liverpool team-mate Ian Rush is another intriguing prospect.

Ian reminds me very much of Jimmy Greaves, the England idol of the 60's who had a magical goal-touch. Like Jimmy, Ian is no hustler or blaster. He tends to glide into position and stroke the ball home.

He doesn't talk much off the field or on it, which accounts for our lethal

'REVENGE!'

because Ron Greenwood left me out through a misunderstanding over an injury.

I've partnered every one of the main candidates for the centre-half position: West Ham's Alvin Martin, Brighton's Steve Foster, Ipswich Town's Russell Osman and Stoke's Dave Watson.

So you can understand why I feel in my bones I'm the man for the England number four shirt. I'll fight against allcomers to get my hands on it for Spain.

Playing against Wales will not only be a big test for me — providing I get the nod — but for the England team and Ron Greenwood. If we can follow our 4-0 win over Northern Ireland with another convincing victory it'll

'WALES BEST IN BRITAIN'



ALTHOUGH they were the only Home nation to fail to qualify for the World Cup Finals, Alan Curtis is convinced Wales are the best team in Britain. And he aims to prove that to England next Tuesday.

And he believes Cardiff's Ninian Park can become just as much a killing ground for Wales as the Racecourse at Wrexham was two years ago. Then Wales, managed for the first time by Mike England, cut their great rivals to shreds.

It was a 4-1 Welsh victory, the biggest in 101 years of rivalry for the host nation — and that was also on the eve of a major trip for England. They were heading for the Finals of the European Championship and Wales sent them away with a hiding.

This time, it is the World Cup Finals and Ron Greenwood's side will find the Welsh itching for consolation after their own failure to qualify. "Maybe it wouldn't be the complete answer but it would do our spirits the world of good," says Curtis.

"It always means something

argues
Alan Curtis



special to succeed against England," he agrees. "It doesn't matter whether it is soccer, rugby or tiddlywinks . . .

"One of my great ambitions now is to be on a winning Welsh side against England. I was out with injury for the victory at Wrexham two years ago and I would dearly love to make it this time."

So would his Swans team-mate Leighton James. He tore apart an England side bound for the European Championship Finals two years ago and is scheduled to win his 50th cap on Tuesday night.

The core of the Welsh side is certain to come from Swansea. Curtis, Leighton James, Robbie James, Dai Davies, Ian Walsh and Chris Marustik are all bidding for places and in confident form. It looks a rough ride for England.

British Championship... British Championship... British Championship...

BEWARE!



Phil (right) hangs his head in shame after scoring an own goal against Wales in 1980.



PHIL THOMPSON
My soccer world

lad being nicknamed the "Silent Killer".

There's only one way to play Ian — keep the ball away from him!

I hope no Southampton player is reading this because Ian probably has a big part to play in settling another score, for Liverpool against Southampton at The Dell.

Saints beat us by a late Steve Moran goal at Anfield in the final stage of our

League match last November.

Compared to Anfield, The Dell is a very compact ground and with them throwing every man forward from the kick-off, our penalty-area is going to be full of bodies.

So our best bet is to concentrate on defence, let them wear themselves out, and then open up on all cylinders.

Easier said than done, when their main dangerman is Kevin Keegan.

But if I can help curb Keegan I could earn extra marks from Ron Greenwood!

Phil Thompson

MANAGER Mike England is hooked on the future of Welsh football. That is why he is now committed to his post as the man at the head of the three squads — the Senior, the Under-21 and the Youth.

As club jobs become available, there has been intense speculation over the future of the former Spurs and Wales defender, but he says: "I've been associated with Welsh football for many years. Never can it have looked any better."

"Wherever you go, there are young players of marvellous ability breaking through. How many countries could have gone to play Spain in Valencia, as we did last month, with a pair of 20-year-old full-backs; the loss of a player like Brian Flynn in midfield; the absence of the top marksman in the game, Ian Rush... yet outplay one of the strongest sides in the world?"

Now manager England is preparing for Wales' tough European Championship qualifying programme against Norway, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

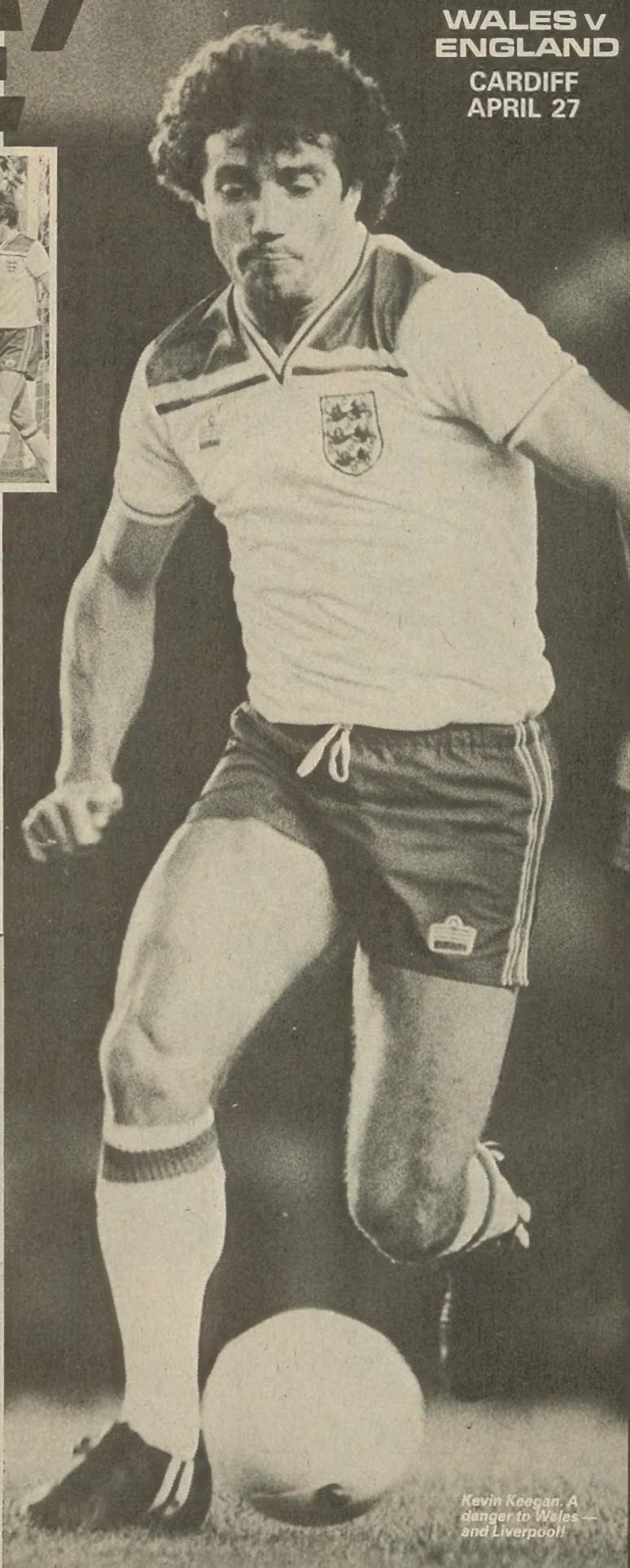
"There is no better way than the programme we lined up by adding Spain and France to our British Championship programme," he says. "That means taking on five World Cup qualifiers."

"There is only one way to earn the respect of other nations — go out and beat the best of them. We started well in Valencia and we're itching to take on England!"

'QUIT? NEVER' VOWS Welsh boss



WALES v
ENGLAND
CARDIFF
APRIL 27



Kevin Keegan. A danger to Wales — and Liverpool!

British Championship... British Championship... British Championship...

'SCOTS WILL PAY FOR IRISH SLUMP'

warns Brotherston



NORTHERN Ireland will draw on all their experience, and the passion of the Windsor Park fans, in a bid to stop the rot that threatens their World Cup hopes when they face fellow qualifiers Scotland in Belfast.

The last time they met, in a tense World Cup qualifying tie at Windsor Park, the game finished 0-0, a result which turned out to be ideal for both nations.

But since that heady night of

N. IRELAND v SCOTLAND BELFAST APRIL 28

qualification when Gerry Armstrong's goal beat Israel 1-0, Northern Ireland have suffered crushing 4-0 defeats by England and France.

Billy Bingham's squad has been brought crashing back to earth and the players know that a good performance against Scotland is essential.

Noel Brotherston, one of the few Irish successes against France, believes the two defeats will do more good than harm.

The Blackburn Rovers forward, currently helping the Ewood Park

side stay in the Second Division promotion race, says: "We paid the penalty for a general loss of concentration. But we know where we have gone wrong and can put it right before travelling to Spain.

"It was concentration, discipline and team-work that enabled us to qualify from a strong group that included Portugal and Sweden.

"I believe we relaxed too much afterwards. The games against England and France were friendly fixtures and we were understandably feeling very pleased with ourselves after qualifying.

"Now we must buckle down to the basics again. That means being tighter, more disciplined, working harder off the ball and staying sharp for 90 minutes.

"We have been shaken up a bit, but the game that really matters is our first in Spain. These friendly matches are only good for maintaining squad contact and keeping sharp.

"Perhaps we have worked our bad patch out of our systems. Better do it in this spell than crash out early on in Spain.

"But Scotland are in for a shock if they think we are going to allow a third successive four-goal reverse. If anything, they could suffer a considerable backlash as Ireland fight to regain lost pride."





Jim Bett (left) and Allan Evans (right) both won their first full caps for Scotland in their last game against Holland at Hampden Park.



WITH thoughts of Seville, Málaga, Valencia and Zaragoza uppermost in their minds, it may be difficult for Scotland and Northern Ireland to concentrate on their British Championship meeting on April 28.

But of course every kick between now and the World Cup Finals is of importance to both

sides and their respective managers.

Billy Bingham and Jock Stein know they must get it right before they arrive in Spain, and the Scots in particular will be under scrutiny throughout their preparations bearing in mind the lack of planning that had apparently been done before they left for Argentina

four years ago.

Denis Law was a member of the Scotland team that went to West Germany in 1974, so how does he feel the build-up is going this time? "I think Jock Stein is a very astute man and we have a much better chance of getting it right with him in charge than we had last time," he says.

'STEIN'S A WINNER'



Acting captain Asa Hartford saves on the line during Scotland's last game in Belfast.

**says
Denis
Law**



"It looks to me as if he has instilled discipline and the right attitude into the squad."

Denis believes Stein already knows the names of the men he will be taking with him to Spain.

"All right, he played Jim Bett and Allan Evans against Holland and there may be one or two more he would like to take a look at against Northern Ireland and in the other warm-up matches."

"But basically he will know by now who is best suited to try to win the World Cup for Scotland."

"He has a little time to experiment but I think those experiments will revolve more around the way the team is going to play than around individuals."

"If you sit down and ask a dozen

Scots to pick the 22 for Spain they would come up with at least 17 or 18 of the same names. But Stein is wily enough to know he may have to handle the matches against New Zealand, Russia and Brazil all entirely differently. Therefore he needs a few options in playing styles — which is where a good squad comes in.

"Billy Bingham is likely to adopt a similar attitude, although he has less players to play with so his squad almost picks itself. It should be an interesting match."

"Sometimes these games can be a bit dead coming at the end of a season when the players are looking forward to their holidays and showing signs of fatigue after a long season."

"This time they will all want to look sharp knowing the biggest matches of their entire careers are just ahead of them."

"They won't want to be the ones left at home."

SHOOT: With just a few weeks to go before the Finals are you happy with the way Scotland's preparations are going?

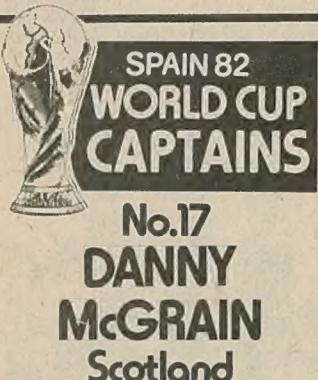
McGRAIN: Yes. We finished our preparation against non-British opposition on a high note with the win against Holland and did so by introducing new faces. These players could become vital in the Finals when it is all about 22 guys pulling together. Our build-up has been good.

SHOOT: What will you be looking for from next week's game against Northern Ireland?

McGRAIN: First of all, not surprisingly, a win. Having said that, it won't be the end of the world to lose except that we want to leave spirits high at home before we go to Spain. But Jock Stein might want to use the match to give fringe players a run and therefore not give too much away to the spies.

SHOOT: It is a tough group. What can you say to give your fans confidence?

McGRAIN: Being the underdogs has never been a bad thing for



Scotland. In the past we have blown it when things should have been easy. The supporters can rest assured this time that the homework has been done. And we can take confidence from the fans themselves who will be in Spain in their thousands to back us up. We will be a boost to one another.

SHOOT: What do the fans realistically expect you to do? Win the Cup? Simply put up a good show? Or what?

McGRAIN: Probably qualify for the second phase, but I don't think anyone is seriously putting us among the favourites. But it is hard to say. In 1974 we never lost a game, yet failed to qualify and came back national heroes.

SHOOT: How aware are you that people will be looking at what Scotland do off the field as well as on it?

McGRAIN: Very. And more so than



LEFT: Kenny Dalglish goes close in Scotland's goalless draw with Brazil during the 1974 tournament.

BELLOW: Archie Gemmill nets a face-saving winner against Holland during Scotland's disastrous campaign in Argentina.



'Flops in '78 - Heroes in

any other country. In 1978 in Argentina, we gave journalists from all over the world great stories. This time we want their notebooks to be blank.

SHOOT: Will you as captain be doing anything to try and ensure the players don't step out of line?

McGRAIN: No. And I won't need to, for we have 22 responsible people and it won't occur. Even if it did, that is Jock Stein's job.

SHOOT: This is your second World Cup. What do you remember from 1974?

McGRAIN: Just the whole fiesta from leaving Scotland until our return. It was the razzamatazz of it all and the feeling of being there. Somehow, I don't particularly remember any one incident or any one game.



THE MANAGER — JOCK STEIN

JOCK STEIN was appointed international manager in 1978 as successor to the ill-fated Ally MacLeod and has succeeded in guiding Scotland to their third successive World Cup Finals.

His involvement with the game started in the late 1940's as a centre-half with Albion Rovers, but a move to the Welsh non-League club Llanelli seemed to herald the end of his career.

But a return to Glasgow, and mighty Celtic, proved to be the start of a long standing and extremely successful 25 year connection with the Parkhead club.

He captained the side which won the double in 1954 and was a regular member of the team until an ankle injury forced him to quit.

He stayed on as a coach before moving to Dunfermline as manager in 1960. While in charge at East End Park he led Dunfermline into Europe by beating Celtic in the Scottish Cup Final of 1961.

He moved on to Hibs in 1964 but soon rejoined Celtic, where he began a reign which makes him one of the most successful managers in British football history.

Apart from a host of Scottish League, Cup and League Cup successes, Stein also led Celtic to the European Cup in 1967, the first British team to take the trophy.

Survived a near fatal car crash in 1975 and now, at the age of 58, is looking forward to the greatest challenge of his career.

WORLD CUP RECORD

Year Opponents	Result
1954 Austria	0-1
Uruguay	0-7
1958 Yugoslavia	1-1
Paraguay	2-3
France	1-2
1974 Zaire	2-0
Brazil	0-0
Yugoslavia	1-1
1978 Peru	1-3
Iran	1-1
Holland	3-2



'82'

SHOOT: What are the lessons Scotland learned from 1974 and 1978?

McGRAIN: A lot went right in '74, but I think that players must have a balanced amount of relaxation and things to do on the non-match days. Boredom can be a real problem. Equally, so much went wrong in 1978 that we can't help but put so many of them right.

SHOOT: You kick off with New Zealand. What do you know about them?

McGRAIN: Let's be honest. If we can't beat New Zealand we don't deserve to qualify for the second phase. Equally, we know they are no mugs and that their Scots born players will play the 90 minutes of their lives. They have travelled further and played more matches than anyone to get to Spain and they will have a lot to prove. But we know about their style and ability.

SHOOT: Are you glad to start with the weakest of the three teams you face?

McGRAIN: It doesn't matter. We would all be nervous no matter who is on the park. It is a big stage for us all and so you could argue it is a good or bad thing. We just want to get on with it.

SHOOT: Then it is Brazil. It must be difficult for any team to face them with confidence.

McGRAIN: I can only go back to

my earlier point about Scotland being the underdogs. We are not terrified of Brazil and they must be worried about us. Remember that even in the gloomy days of Argentina we beat Holland, who went on to become beaten Finalists.

SHOOT: And Russia? Everyone says they are dark horses.

McGRAIN: I think the myth of the Red Shadow is beginning to melt a bit after the way Aston Villa tore Dynamo Kiev apart, and remember

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Israel 0, N. Ireland 0	Scotland 2, Sweden 0
Sweden 1, Israel 1	Portugal 1, Sweden 2
Sweden 0, Scotland 1	N. Ireland 0, Scotland 0
N. Ireland 3, Sweden 0	Israel 4, Portugal 1
Scotland 0, Portugal 0	N. Ireland 1, Israel 0
Israel 0, Sweden 0	Portugal 2, Scotland 1
Portugal 1, N. Ireland 0	
Portugal 3, Israel 0	
Israel 0, Scotland 1	P W D L F Apts
Scotland 1, N. Ireland 1	Scotland 8 4 3 1 9 4 11
Scotland 3, Israel 1	N. Ireland 8 3 3 2 6 3 9
N. Ireland 1, Portugal 0	Sweden 8 3 2 3 7 8 8
Sweden 1, N. Ireland 0	Portugal 8 3 1 4 8 11 7
Sweden 3, Portugal 0	Israel 8 1 3 4 6 10 5

they had five of the Soviet squad in their team. Jock Stein has watched them play and he has spotted weaknesses. That is good enough for me.

SHOOT: If you put you on the spot and ask: "Will Scotland qualify for the second phase?" — what would you say?

McGRAIN: Yes.

SHOOT: On to your favourite country — England. How well do you think they will do?

McGRAIN: I think they will find it very hard. They will get to the second phase, but not beyond. And I think they will find France tougher than they imagine.

SHOOT: Which British players could make the biggest impression in Spain?

McGRAIN: From Scotland Kenny Dalglish and Alan Hansen. But I also think Glenn Hoddle could become a real world name if he gets his eye in early and the games are not played at too hectic a pace.

SHOOT: What sort of World Cup do you think it will be?

McGRAIN: I think it could turn out to be a tacticians' tournament, like a high game of chess. But I also think there will be a great levelling out between the great nations like Brazil and the newcomers like Kuwait. No one will get whitewashed.

SHOOT: You had two dreadful penalties awarded against you in Spain in February. Is that a taste of things to come?

McGRAIN: No. That game was the referee's first international. I don't think that match will have any bearing on the real thing.

SHOOT: If you had one wish for the World Cup, what would it be?

McGRAIN: That we win it! That and that we come home like heroes with our heads held high and proud to know that we have let no one down this time. I also pray that our fans behave themselves.

NEXT WEEK:
LUIS ARCONADA
(SPAIN)

THIS season will be remembered as an eventful and revolutionary period in British football. Prophets of doom will point to the cash crisis threatening the future of some clubs and falling attendances. But SHOOT makes no secret of the fact that we prefer to feature the brighter side of the game and we feel a lot of people deserve a pat on the back for their efforts. This is a look at just some of the encouraging aspects to have emerged from this season, because we believe that ...

CHAMPIONSHIP CHASERS

LUCKY 13 FOR LIVERPOOL?

THREE points for a win has produced one of the most exciting and fiercely contested title races for years.

Any one of six or seven clubs could still win the League, headed, of course, by Liverpool.

Again they've proved their critics wrong by bouncing back following an indifferent start and already have the League Cup and a place in Europe under their belts.

They've lost more at home than usual, but because they look for goals on their travels they are still favourites for their 13th title win.

Manchester United, another team of giant stature and marvellous tradition, are also back among the leaders.

At the start of the season Ron Atkinson went out and bought big, but despite plunging The Red Devils into debt, their new boss has also injected excitement, flair and talent into one of the most entertaining United teams for years.

Ipwich, who have been without the services of Mariner, Thijssen, Butcher and Cooper for much of this year, have nevertheless refused to sacrifice their attacking principles and have been duly rewarded.

And Spurs, surely the team of the season, have them all looking anxiously over their shoulders.

Next month they'll make their fifth Wembley appearance in 12 months and could also win glory in Europe, but they still keep on going in the race for the League.

The secret to Tottenham's success is simple. They play to win every game — home and away

SOCER'S



Kenny Dalglish (above) is on target for Liverpool against Ipswich Town. Glenn Hoddle, Garth Crooks and Mike Hazard (left) celebrate another Spurs goal.

— and are now performing to full houses every week as a result.

Another club who are packing in the crowds are Southampton, the team who went top of the League for the first time in their history earlier this season.

In fact, Saints weren't the only club to enjoy that boast this term because, of course, Swansea City have also basked in the glory of first place.

The Swansea success story has been well chronicled, but that should not detract in the slightest from the achievements of a team who, under the guidance of manager John Toshack, have risen from the Fourth to the First Division in the space of five years.

to be starting next season as a First Division manager.

Former Liverpool and England stalwart Emlyn Hughes has done well at Rotherham while Bobby Saxton has successfully maintained Blackburn's promotion challenge. And it's nice to see that Arthur Cox appears to be succeeding in his task of awakening slumbering giants Newcastle.

As a player, Malcolm Macdonald was always a winner. Now he's doing just as well in charge at Fulham.

Former England defenders Larry Lloyd and Roy McFarland look set for promotion at Wigan and Bradford City respectively, and they're likely to be joined by a Sheffield United side under the guidance of Ian Porterfield.

Peter Morris, Bob Stokoe, Gordon Lee, Brian Miller and David Webb are other lower Division managers who are succeeding against severe financial restrictions.

THE MANAGERS

YOUNG BREED MAKE TOP BOSSES

WHEN Ron Greenwood retires after the World Cup Finals, there'll be no shortage of potential candidates to succeed him as the England manager.

Bobby Robson, Lawrie McMenemy, Brian Clough and Keith Burkinshaw will start as favourites for the job. Others, such as Jackie Charlton, Bob Paisley, Ron Atkinson and John Bond, will also have their supporters.

All have proved their worth as top managers, but we'd like to turn the spotlight on less publicised members of the managerial scene who are passing the toughest tests with flying honours.

John Toshack has already received the MBE for his marvellous lifesaving job at Swansea, while Watford's Graham Taylor looks like emulating Tosh's feat of leading a club from Fourth to First Division.

One man who achieved that feat last season was Jimmy Sirrel. Now he's proved critics wrong again by shaping Notts County into an established First Division outfit.

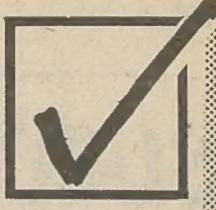
Everton's new manager Howard Kendall has also won over the Goodison Park fans by completely rebuilding the team.

Terry Venables has led Q.P.R. to the F.A. Cup Final and Luton's young boss David Pleat is certain

Luton boss David Pleat.



GOT IT RIGHT



THE PLAYERS

IT'S been a season of marvellous individual performances. From the most experienced veterans through to the up and coming youngsters, soccer is brimming over with outstanding talent.

England captain Kevin Keegan, of course, is playing as well as at any time during his career.

The PFA's Player of the Year, Kevin also leads the First Division goalscorers and has played a major part in the success of his club.

His Southampton team-mate Steve Moran made it a memorable club double when he was voted as the PFA's Young Player of the Year.

Although this likeable young man is now out for the season with a back injury, we are sure he'll be back with a vengeance.

Steve just pipped Liverpool's Ian Rush to that award, but that's no slight on the ability of the Liverpool striker who's proved such a goalscoring sensation in his first full season in Division One.

Another Liverpool newcomer who's performed wonders this season is Ronnie Whelan, scorer of two of his team's League Cup Final goals.

And with Kenny Dalglish,

KEEGAN HEADS ALL-STAR CAST

Graeme Souness and Mark Lawrenson all doing better than ever, it's clear to see why there are few long faces around Anfield these days.

And a former Liverpool star who's not exactly unhappy with his lot right now is Spurs goalkeeper Ray Clemence. He's played a starring role in the Tottenham success story and now seems to be setting some new landmark every other week.

Credit

His team-mates Glenn Hoddle, Ossie Ardiles, Mike Hazard and Steve Perryman also deserve great credit.

The one sure way to woo the fans back through the turnstiles is by giving them goals, and two men who have scored more than their fair share of those this season are Cyrille Regis and Alan Brazil.

Big Cyrille has been virtually unstoppable for WBA this term, and his ferocious power and strength have at last won him the England recognition many people felt was long overdue.

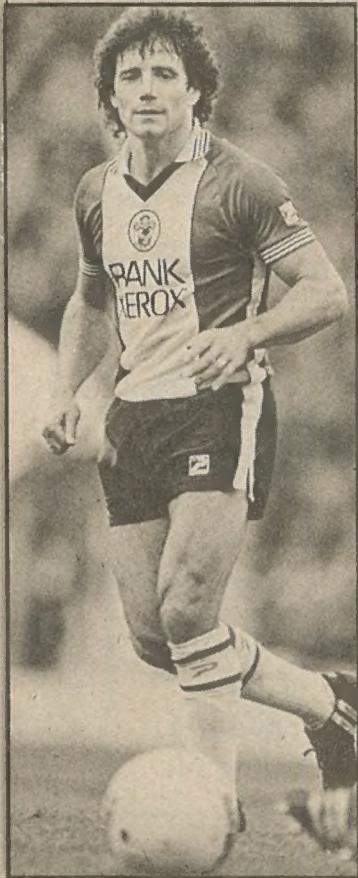
And Ipswich striker Brazil turned in possibly the finest individual performance of this decade when he hammered five goals against top of the League Southampton at Portman Road in February.

Manchester United's decision to spend may have been controversial, but ask any Old Trafford fan if he thinks Frank Stapleton and Bryan Robson have proved value for money and it's a fair bet they'll answer in the affirmative.

The new United skipper Ray Wilkins has also proved a revelation and could be England's ace in the pack as a surprise sweeper in Spain.

Steve Foster, Alvin Martin and Tony Morley have all won England recognition for their potential while Scotland have rewarded the likes of Allan Evans, Jim Bett and Tommy Burns.

And let's not overlook the contributions of the veterans still going strong. John Hollins, Alan Ball, Frank Worthington and John Wile are just some of the long serving stars who have put so much into football over the years. Nobody should ever underestimate their value.



INTERNATIONAL SCENE



RON'S LAST GREAT BATTLE

WITH three teams competing in this summer's World Cup Finals, British international football has not been in a healthier state for more than 20 years.

England have battled through to qualify against the odds. Although they made hard work of reaching Spain, now they are there they have, in Keegan, Robson, Hoddle and Regis, the kind of players capable of setting the competition alight.

Manager Ron Greenwood wants to bow out with his head held high.

He has inspired such loyalty and respect among his players they are sure to do their utmost to carry out his wishes.

Scotland will be taking part in their third successive Finals, but they, too, have a lot to prove after the disasters of Argentina '78.

Recent results suggest that manager Jock Stein has the lion roaring once more. Dalglish, Jordan, Archibald, Hansen and Souness are players good enough to challenge the best in the world.

Being drawn against Brazil and Russia has done them no favours, but they are games which every Scottish fan can look forward to.

And Northern Ireland have at last made the headlines for all the right reasons following so much bad news from that troubled province in recent years.

Billy Bingham has worked miracles in getting his men to Spain. The Northern Irish haven't competed in the Finals since 1958, but then they proved themselves to be the surprise team of the tournament.

Individually the current squad may not be

world beaters. But collectively they can provide a stern challenge for anybody.

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MCCULLOCH'S LATE BURST

IPSWICH star Alan Brazil is mounting a late challenge for the SHOOT/Adidas Golden Shoe Award, given to the player who scores most League goals in a season.

The Scottish international striker has stepped up his scoring rate in recent weeks and is now the only First Division player in with a realistic chance of catching the runaway leader Kevin Keegan.

Keegan has a cushion which should see him home and dry comfortably enough, but as Brazil proved against Southampton earlier this year he is always capable of coming up with something a bit special.

Cyrille Regis and the Liverpool duo of Terry McDermott and Ian Rush are still in the frame, but watch out for Notts County's Iain McCulloch, who is putting in a late burst.

Down in Division Two, it could hardly be tighter.

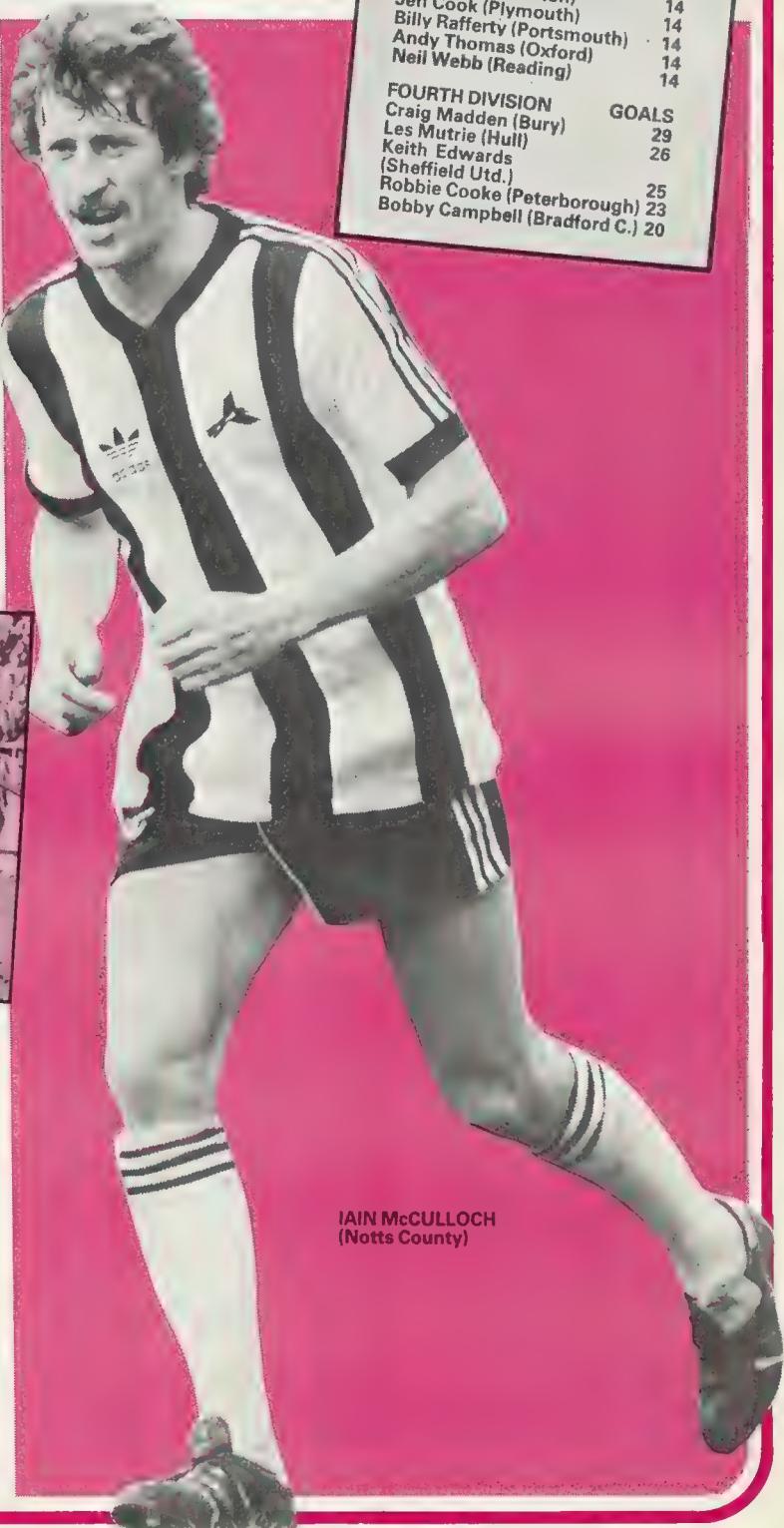
Luton's Steve White, who has led the pack for most of the season, scored goal number 16 against Blackburn recently.

But prior to that he has gone eight games without a League

SHOOT/ adidas Golden Shoe Awards 1981-82



Rotherham's Ronnie Moore (above, right) and Garry Bannister of Sheffield Wednesday (below, stripes) are leading the Second Division chase. Fulham's top scorer Gordon Davies (foot of page) looks likely to take the Third Division title.



IAIN McCULLOCH
(Notts County)



goal, and that lapse has allowed Garry Bannister, Ronnie Moore and Imre Varadi to catch him.

Incidentally, Orient striker Keith Houchen actually has more goals than any other Second Division player — 18. But as all were scored with Fourth Division Hartlepool before his transfer on deadline day we feel it would unfair to include him in the Second Division category.

The Third Division award looks likely to become the property of Fulham's Welsh international Gordon Davies.

But in Division Four, Keith Edwards, Les Mutrie and Robbie Cooke have all been finding the back of the net so regularly in recent weeks that Bury's Craig Madden can still take nothing for granted.

FIRST DIVISION		GOALS
Kevin Keegan (Southampton)	21	
Alan Brazil (Ipswich)	16	
Terry McDermott (Liverpool)	14	
Cyrille Regis (W.B.A.)	14	
Ian Rush (Liverpool)	14	
Lee Chapman (Stoke)	13	
Iain McCulloch (Notts Co.)	13	
Kevin Reeves (Man. City)	13	
John Wark (Ipswich)	13	

SECOND DIVISION		GOALS
Garry Bannister (Sheff. Wed.)	17	
Ronnie Moore (Rotherham)	16	
Steve White (Luton)	16	
Imre Varadi (Newcastle)	16	
Ian Banks (Barnsley)	15	
Simon Stainrod (Q.P.R.)	15	
David Moss (Luton)	14	
Roger Wylde (Oldham)	13	

THIRD DIVISION		GOALS
Gordon Davies (Fulham)	20	
Tony Kellow (Exeter)	19	
Alex Bruce (Preston)	14	
Jeff Cook (Plymouth)	14	
Billy Rafferty (Portsmouth)	14	
Andy Thomas (Oxford)	14	
Neil Webb (Reading)	14	

FOURTH DIVISION		GOALS
Craig Madden (Bury)	29	
Les Mutrie (Hull)	26	
Keith Edwards (Sheffield Utd.)	25	
Robbie Cooke (Peterborough)	23	
Bobby Campbell (Bradford C.)	20	

BOURNEMOUTH



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

It was one of the saddest moments of Dave Webb's life when his old Queens Park Rangers team-mate and friend Dave Clement was found dead.

They had played together for a long time and although they had gone their separate ways in recent years, the bonds of friendship had remained as strong as they had been in their heyday together under Dave Sexton's management at Loftus Road.

The Bournemouth manager wasted no time in speeding from his Hampshire home to offer whatever comfort he could to his pal's bereaved family.

Light-hearted

The following day he was back on the South Coast in Bournemouth's cherry red shirt to hurl himself around in a light-hearted kickabout with some fans.

The chasing around illustrates the all-action attitude Dave Webb has adopted since taking over from Alec Stock.

His efforts have been heavily channelled into "selling" Bournemouth to local fans and producing a promotion winning side on limited resources.

He has succeeded on the first, doubling the club's gates in the process to 6,000, and is confident that his cut-price team will soar into the Third Division at the end



Manager David Webb

of the season.

Bournemouth are the Fourth Division's supermarket team. Nine of the players who have helped the club maintain a cracking pace in the promotion zone cost less than a packet of soap powder. Nothing.

They have a fair percentage of skill but what they lack in technical skill they compensate for in physical commitment and running power.

Webb has made the most of the talents available. He admits to offering a small prayer when his established first team goalkeeper Kenny Allen broke a wrist earlier this season.

Ian Leigh, only 19, was not considered good enough for the League side but Webb had no alternative but to give him a chance.

"I gave Ian one more year to make the grade at the start of the

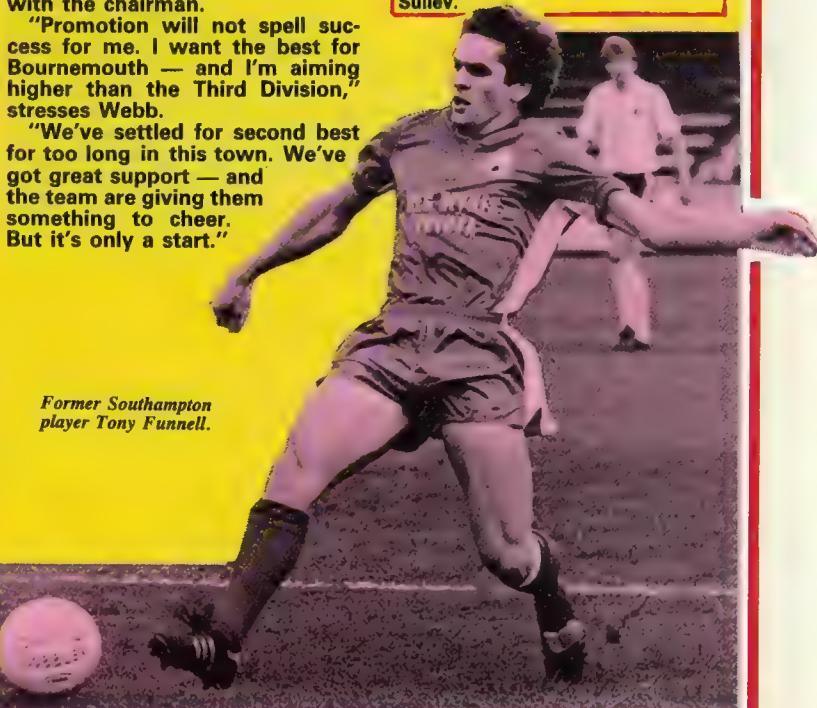
season," Webb explains. "Make the grade? He's been great."

Tony Funnell's lethal shooting, with outstanding support from Andy Crawford, Trevor Morgan, and Kevin Dawtry, emphasises the influence Webb has woven at Dean Court in a season which has seen him walk out on the club but return overnight after peace talks with the chairman.

"Promotion will not spell success for me. I want the best for Bournemouth — and I'm aiming higher than the Third Division," stresses Webb.

"We've settled for second best for too long in this town. We've got great support — and the team are giving them something to cheer. But it's only a start."

Former Southampton player Tony Funnell



BACK ROW (left to right): Howard Goddard, Trevor Morgan, Ian Leigh, John Impey, Paul Edmunds.

MIDDLE ROW: Phil Brignull, Brian O'Donnell, Tom Heffernan, Kenny Allen, Derek Dawkins, Nigel Spackman, Milton Graham, Paul Compton.

FRONT ROW: Brian Smith (now Bury), Andy Crawford, Tony Funnell, Kevin Dawtry, Steve Carter, Chris Sulley.

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RONNIE ALLEN-ENGLAND'S KEY MAN



RONNIE ALLEN, West Bromwich Albion's manager, will be joining the England party at the World Cup — because of his local knowledge.

Allen impressed Ron Greenwood and the F.A. officials in the party when he accompanied them for the recent match in Bilbao.

Allen speaks Spanish and knows the area following his spell as manager of the Bilbao club.

Mr Bert Millichip, chairman of the F.A. and also of Albion, said: "We were very impressed with the reception he received from the Spanish. Ronnie Allen is obviously a well respected man in Spain and we wish to make use of his services."

F.A. VASE BONUS

CHIEF guest at this season's F.A. Challenge Vase Final between Forest Green and Rainworth RM at Wembley on Saturday, May 8th, will be former Wolves and Birmingham City manager Stan Collis.

An honorary member of the F.A., Stan will present the Vase medals after the match.

As a special bonus this year, spectators at the Final will be able to enter a lucky programme competition, the prizes for which will be five pairs of tickets for the England v. West Germany match on Wednesday 13th October, 1982.

Tickets for the Vase Final are available from The Football Box Office, Wembley Stadium, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0DW. Prices £4.00, £3.00 and £2.00.

Dave Thomas' historic link

THE family of former England winger Dave Thomas have a direct link with the West Auckland team that won the World Cup way back in the 1900's. Tyne Tees Television are making a film of the Durham County miners who left their village and achieved fame in Italy.

TV star Dennis Waterman, well known for his roles in The Sweeney and Minder, was so impressed by the story of the original World Cup that he started the ball rolling for the TV film in which he will be a key figure.

Thomas recalls, "My grandfather, 'Ticer' Thomas, helped to put West Auckland on the map. He won a Cup medal."

The ex-Burnley, Q.P.R., Everton and Wolves forward returned to the North-East where he was brought up when he joined Middlesbrough after being released by Vancouver Whitecaps.

Thomas, 31, says, "I feel I still have a lot to offer the game."

REVIVAL CITY

THAT astonishing 24,593 turn-out for Sheffield United's Fourth Division game with Bradford served to reflect once more the tremendous revival football is enjoying in south Yorkshire.

Indeed, the whole of Yorkshire can take comfort from attendances this season which generally reverse the national trend.

Across the city, Sheffield Wednesday continues to pull 'em in too, and a successful promotion campaign will ensure 40,000 gates at Hillsborough again next season for the visits of Liverpool, Manchester United and other big names.

ARSENAL TALK UPSET GARRY

COVENTRY striker Garry Thompson was an angry man in the week leading up to the transfer deadline when news broke that the Highfield Road club were negotiating to let him go to Arsenal.

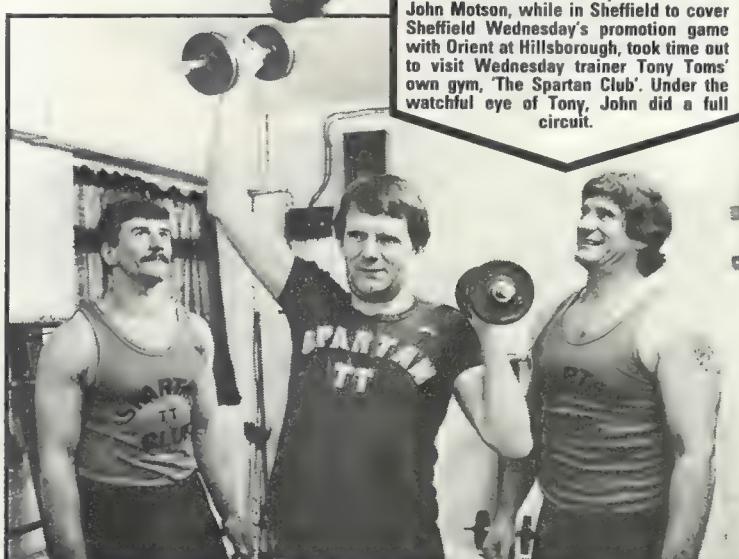
For he claims he heard nothing from the club and he said: "I am not particularly happy about what went on. I heard about it the night before the story broke and then the next news I got was when a Press guy rang me to say the deal was off.

"I have been left totally in the dark. Now I am sure my days at the club are numbered and that I will probably be sold at the end of the season.

"The events of the two days before the deadline made it clear my future at Coventry is limited. It's been said by the club that they want to keep Steve Hunt and myself. But then this Arsenal thing happens."

JOHN FIGHTS FLAB

B.B.C. 'Match of the Day' commentator John Motson, while in Sheffield to cover Sheffield Wednesday's promotion game with Orient at Hillsborough, took time out to visit Wednesday trainer Tony Toms' own gym, 'The Spartan Club'. Under the watchful eye of Tony, John did a full circuit.



POP'S FASTER

POP ROBSON, famed in his days at Newcastle United, Sunderland and West Ham, is still turning it on for Third Division promotion chasers Carlisle United.

And despite his advancing years, 36-year-old Pop reckons he is quicker than ever.

Although at an age when it would be expected his fitness wasn't what it used to be, Pop says: "I'm quicker now than I was when I was 21."

He puts it down to squash and table tennis which keeps his reflexes sharp, and nearly 250 League goals proves his words.

Of current players, only Kevin Hector of Derby has more goals and Pop Robson is catching him fast. Says player-coach Robson: "Of course I could still score goals regularly in the First Division, but I am happy to be involved in coaching up here with Bob Stokoe, and also still playing."

FANS WORRY UNITED

MANCHESTER UNITED are trying too hard to please their supporters — and it could cost them the Championship.

John Gidman (right), former Everton and Aston Villa right-back, believes that United's desperation to please their fans at home games is harming their chances of winning the title for the first time since 1967.

Says Gidman: "I suppose United have not won a major trophy for some time and everyone is calling for success. You can feel it when we play at Old Trafford and it puts the players on edge."

We become over-anxious and nerves creep in. You start doing unrealistic things, trying for the impossible, trying to force the issue instead of being patient and letting things happen naturally."

Gidman, who featured heavily in Everton's fight for First Division survival last season, claims he is under more pressure now than at any time in the Goodison club's relegation battle.

"When we've scored an early goal at Old Trafford it's like playing in paradise," says Gidman. "Lose and it's purgatory."

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY

A BLIND couple who have frequently travelled from their home in Epsom, Surrey, to Meadowbank Thistle's games in Edinburgh were special guests of the club officials.

After Thistle's 1-0 defeat over Cowdenbeath, director John Bain handed over a bouquet of flowers to Lynne Stafford on her birthday.

Lynne, 26, and her husband David became Thistle supporters a year ago. Says David: "Now being able to see the game is easily overcome as we can tell what's happening from the reaction of the crowd. Other fans also keep us up with the run of play."

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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Bad boy...

WIMBLEDON midfield player Glyn Hodges (right) is the bad boy of English football.

Hodges gets the tag after being first to reach 40 disciplinary points this season — and his club are hopping mad about their young player's atrocious record.

Hodges, still only 19, has been banned for a total of seven matches in totalling the highest number of points of any player in the country.

But Wimbledon club secretary Adrian Cook believes Hodges has to sort himself out — if he wants a future in the game.

He warns: "The boy could force himself out of football by his own inability to control himself. If he goes on like this and in two years time his record is still as bad, clubs won't want to know him."

"He has the makings of a very good player but it is a matter of temperament."

Cook says only one man can solve the problem. "Glyn has to sort it out himself. No one else can do it. The trouble is, the boy is competitive and doesn't like losing. He cannot control himself sometimes when he does lose."

"Forty points isn't down to bad luck, that's for sure."



...but Mark sheds 'nasty' tag

BIRMINGHAM left-back Mark Dennis is hoping that the rough no-nonsense approach of his new boss, Ron Saunders, can help him to get rid of his bad boy image.

He says: "I know that the fans are looking at it from the outside and wondering if Ron Saunders is finally going to be the one to sort me out. In some ways he already has done."

"I know he is not the sort of man to accept any nonsense and he will not want me getting into trouble for dissent or the like, which has happened in the past."

"At the same time, I don't think he wants me to change my aggression in winning the ball and that's something I don't feel I'll ever be able to do myself."

The 20-year-old prospect is sidelined right now following an operation on his knee and it won't be until next term that he will be going into action for Saunders.

Briefly

● Derek Parkin's move on a free transfer to Stoke as part of the economy cuts at Wolves marks the end of an era.

For 33-year-old Parkin had been a Molineux man since joining them from Huddersfield in 1968 and the 500 plus games he played is a club record.

Parkin got a boost from Wolves boss Ian Greaves, who said: "He is a 33-year-old on 30-year-old legs."

And Parkin added: "I'll keep playing for as long as I am enjoying the game and I am still getting a lot of enjoyment from football."

● When Fulham's Gordon Davies made his international debut for Wales against Turkey in November, 1979, he became the 38th Davies to wear the red shirt of Wales.

● Don Givens, Eire's record goalscorer with 19 goals, will get a testimonial in August.

Manchester United, Don's first League club, will travel to Dublin to play an Eire selection.

● David Pleat, manager of Second Division Championship chasers Luton, is hoping that history will repeat itself with his signing of another "Old head."

He grabbed 30-year-old striker Billy Jennings on a free transfer from Orient and says: "Bob Hatton came to us when he was 31 and gave us magnificent service as a striker for two seasons. There is no reason to suppose that Jennings won't do the same."

● Motherwell are ready to burst into song when they win the promotion to the Scottish Premier Division which is virtually a certainty.

The Lanarkshire side are clear leaders in the First Division Championship race and have had a song written by songwriter Brian Freeland. It will be released as soon as promotion is official.

● Before conceding four goals in the March 24 thrashing by France, Northern Ireland stand-in keeper Jim Platt had never been beaten more than once in 12 previous international appearances.

● Ronnie Whelan, Liverpool's new star, certainly started young. Ronnie made his League of Ireland debut for Home Farm on September 25, 1977 — his 16th birthday. He scored seven goals in 44 League appearances for the Dublin amateurs before joining Liverpool in October, 1979.

TOP CAPTAIN BREMNER

BILLY Bremner, manager of Third Division Doncaster Rovers, is one of the best captains to emerge since the last War.

Bremner, hero of 54 appearances for Scotland in a brilliant career, was an inspirational leader both for his country and his former club, Leeds United.

Bremner's vote of confidence, long after his decision to retire and take up management, comes from Paul Power, Manchester City's captain.

"He's my top skipper in recent years," claims Power. "I'll never forget how the tough little Scotsman used to boss the show for club and country."

Power believes that captains play a vital role for which they rarely receive credit.

"I see myself as an extension of manager John Bond and John Benson, his assistant. That's why I never ask the Maine Road players to do anything I wouldn't be prepared to do myself."

"There are times when a player needs to be barked at."

A change of captain can prove successful, he says, drawing on the experience this season at Liverpool and Manchester United where Phil Thompson and Martin Buchan lost their jobs to Graeme Souness and Ray Wilkins.

"Buchan and Thompson will be the first to realise that a change of captain was no personal reflection on their abilities."



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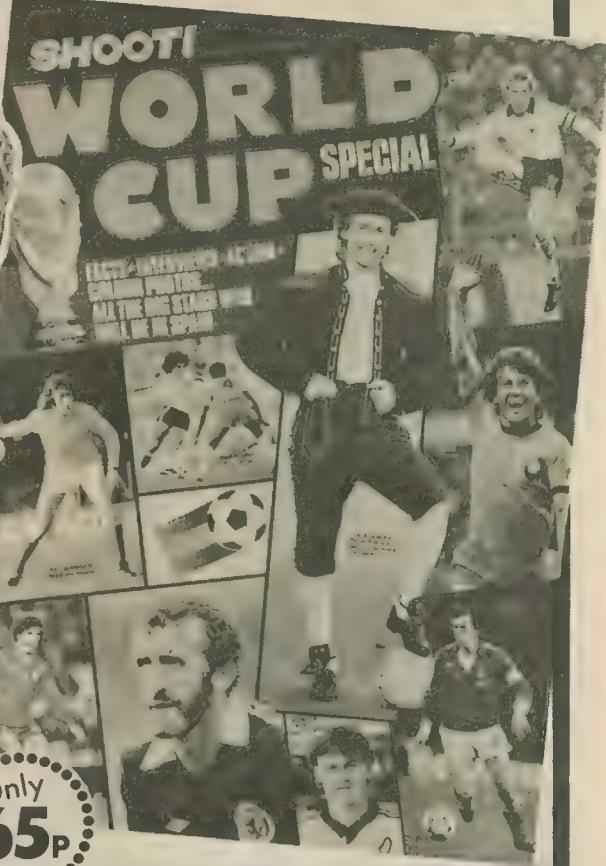
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RUUD Krol, one of the highest paid players in Europe now that he is earning his salary in Italy with Napoli, had words of praise for Scotland after Holland's 2-1 defeat at Hampden.

And especially for the pre-World Cup planning of manager Jock Stein.

For the one-time Ajax star who

skipped Holland against Argentina in the 1978 World Cup Final reckons that the only way to prepare for Spain is to play against top ranked teams.

After examining the Stein plan — first the game against Spain, then Holland, then Northern Ireland, Wales and England — Krol grinned and remarked: "That is the right way."

"It is not good to play against inferior teams. If you do that you learn little. Mistakes are not punished and players can become careless."

"It did not matter that Scotland lost to Spain in Valencia because that game is a long way from the Finals."

"Again, against us at Hampden they tried a lot of fresh players. It is the only way of learning what people can do."

"Scotland, I think, will be ready for the England game — that is always the biggest one for them isn't it? That is just before they go to Spain and it is the right time to come to form and to know your best team."

Wembley, too. It will be interesting to see their team in that game.

"It is much closer to the Finals then and just before the Scotland match at Hampden. Somehow, at that stage, I don't see Ron Greenwood playing as many new men as the Scots did!"

Scotland were without Alan Hansen, Graeme Souness, Asa Hartford and John Robertson, all absent through injury.

Stein also decided to leave out Gordon Strachan and Alex McLeish to allow places to go to the new caps Allan Evans of Aston Villa and Jim Bett of Rangers.

Krol saw this and with the wisdom garnered from two World Cup Finals commented: "From what I have seen and from what Kees Rijvers has told us the man missed most was Hansen."

"He is the kind of player who will do well in Spain because he can come forward into attack from deep positions. Alan could be the key man for Scotland in the World Cup."

'HANSEN - SCOTLAND'S WORLD CUP ACE'

says
Holland's
Ruud
Krol



Krol was one of the few Dutch veterans to survive the axe from manager Kees Rijvers after their elimination from this summer's extravaganza.

Others were Jan Peters and Arnold Muijen, while around them were a mix of experienced club players and youngsters.

Krol admits: "I did not think that I would play again. I was sure that the team manager would want to build for the European Championship, but he wants to keep some experience while he is getting the team ready."

"I'm happy to be in the team and I want to play against England at

"It is going to be difficult for front players in the Finals — this is always the way. But if you have skilful players who can come from defence, then you have an advantage."

"As for attackers, I was happy to see how well Joe Jordan played for Scotland. He has had problems in Italy because at Milan no one supports him. He is alone, fighting without any help. It was different at Hampden and he is still a striker who will cause problems for any defenders in Spain."

"It was not Scotland's true team — that was obvious — and although we did not qualify our team is taking shape again."

"We are still a test for anyone, and so when the Scots were able to beat us it proves that they are on the right road."

Ask THE Expert

Send your letters to Ask the Expert, SH2021, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. UK readers receive £2 for every letter published. Overseas readers receive a special £1000. Please write clearly. Please state your name, address or telephone number. Every letter is read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to individual letters personally.

Scottish original

Who were the original members of the Scottish League?

A. SIMPSON,
MORAYSHIRE,

- This is the order in which they finished in that first-ever season of 1890-91 — Dumbarton, Rangers, Celtic, Cambuslang, Third Lanark, Hearts, Abercorn, St Mirren, Vale of Leven, and Cowlays.

Dumbarton and Rangers each gained 29 points, and a play-off was arranged to decide the title. But this ended in a 2-2 draw, and so they were declared joint Champions.

Non-English side

Has a team ever played a Football League match without a single Englishman in the line-up?

IAN BRADLEY,
LEICESTERSHIRE,

- Yes, Ian, Accrington Stanley did just that in a Third Division (North) game against York City in April, 1955.

That was said to be the first time ever — and I certainly can't find any trace of a repetition anywhere since.

Same club

I know quite a few players have had a couple of separate spells at the same club, but has anyone had more than that?

TUNDE JAGUN,
NIGERIA,

- It's a bit unusual, Tunde, but there have been one or two cases.

Probably the most remarkable was that of striker Andy Graver.

He moved from Newcastle to Lincoln in 1950; on to Leicester in 1954; back to Lincoln in 1955; on to Stoke in 1956, and non-League Boston in 1957; and finally back against Lincoln in 1958.

After those three separate spells as a player at Lincoln — where he's still their record aggregate scorer — Graver returned there a fourth time as coach in 1964.

SHORT PASSES

- When Ipswich beat Manchester United 6-0 on 1st March, 1980, their scorers were Brazil (two), Mariner (three), and Thijssen.

(TONY GOLDINGAY, West Midlands)

- Derby County's first League game was a 6-3 win at Bolton on 8th September, 1888.

(PHILIP WALLER, Derby)

- England's highest score in the final stages of the World Cup is four goals — a 4-4 draw with Belgium in 1954, and that 4-2 win over West Germany in the 1966 Final.

(DANIEL ABERHARD, Bucks.)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

On the ball CROSSWORD

ACROSS:

- (1) Tampa — Rowdies. Complete the U.S. soccer club. (3)
- (3) Kevin — Crystal Palace striker. (7)
- (7) Arthur — Manchester United defender. (8)
- (12) Col(---)ine. What is missing from the Irish club? (3)
- (13) George — Arsenal keeper. (4)
- (14) One of Norwich City's colours. (6)
- (16) ---ts County play at Meadow Lane. (3)
- (19) See 10 Down. (3)
- (21) John — Manchester United full-back. (6)
- (23) Byron St---son of Birmingham. (4)
- (24) Ma-ne Road is the home of Man-h-ster City. (3)
- (25) Kevin — Ipswich Town defender. (8)
- (27) Justin — Nottingham Forest striker. (7)
- (30) Offer . . . for a new player, perhaps. (3)

DOWN:

- (1) Wardle, Shrewsbury Town keeper. (3)
- (2) Kevin ---ng of Burnley. (3)
- (4) Stadium; ground of Cambridge United. (5)

(5) Clyde are in Division — of the Scottish Football League. (3)

(6) Peter — former Nottm. Forest striker now in America (4).

(8) Roughnecks play in the N.A.S.L. (5)

(9) SHOOT supplies all the latest and best — on soccer! (4)

(10, 19 Across & 23) Francois ---, West Ham's Belgium international. (3)

(11) Don — Arsenal and England coach. (4)

(15) Gray, Leeds United utility player. (5)

(17) Gary — W.B.A. midfield player. (4)

(18) If Arsenal, Stoke, Bolton and Wrexham give "SOLE": what do Blackburn, Wigan, Preston & Ipswich give? (4)

(20) Graham — Arsenal midfield player. (3)

(22) Use five letters from Lincoln City for man-made fibre. (5)

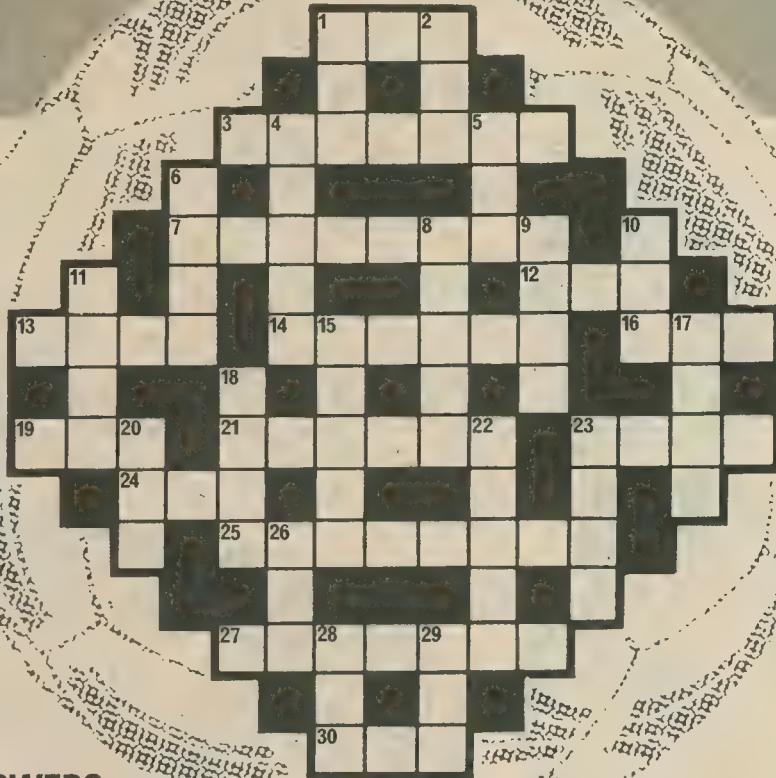
(23) See 10. (4)

(26) John Bums---d of Chelsea (3)

(28) Short for a replacement player. (3)

(29) Leeds play at Ell--- Road. (3)

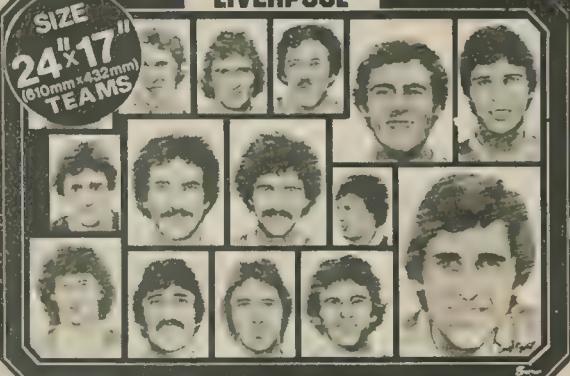
**ANSWERS
ON PAGE 36**



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TOTTENHAM'S SECRET



Ray Clemence puts an end to a Leicester attack during the F.A. Cup Semi-Final clash.

TOTTENHAM are about to make their second successive F.A. Cup Final appearance — thanks to our reserves!

We knew our Semi-Final opponents Leicester would show a great deal of aggression and hard-running, so Keith Burkinshaw and coach Peter Shreeves instructed our reserves to try and put the first team out of their stride in a full-blooded, no holds barred 90 minute practice match a few days before.

The final score was 3-3 and our reserves gave us a tough time.

Overall the Semi-Final went very much as Spurs expected. We weren't as tense as last season for a start. The experience gained against Wolves in 1980-81 proved invaluable.

Last season the lads were affected by the tension and atmosphere of the occasion. Most found it difficult to sleep for nights before the match.

This time we were perfectly relaxed. Most of us prepared for the big match by strolling around the golf course which adjoined our hideaway hotel in Birmingham.

Unknown

This season it was Second Division Leicester who were stepping into the unknown.

Although Tottenham's class and ability shone through in the end, I was very impressed with the young, tenacious and extremely well organised Leicester side.

As you'd expect of a team managed by Jock Wallace, they fought for every ball and covered for each other.

Eddie Kelly, the former Arsenal and Notts County midfielder, did a great job for them, organising and encouraging the youngsters around him.

Leicester lost, but they are a team with a fine future. If big Jock Wallace gets them back into the First Division they'll be there to stay.

My man-of-the-match was our Glenn Hoddle. His distribution was superb, so was his determination. Two or three of the Leicester play-

ers were really aggressive towards him. They tried to hustle and harass, but Glenn refused to be intimidated or allow anyone to get on top of him.

Some of the balls Glenn played through to me and Garth Crooks

were sheer world class.

He's played some great games for Spurs, but the Semi-Final at Villa Park was one of his best.

The game was also an emotional occasion for my little friend Ossie Ardiles who, because of the recent invasion of the Falkland Islands, could well have played his last game for Spurs.

As yet we don't know for certain if he will return to play for Spurs in the F.A. Cup Final, or indeed ever

again.

All the players knew what Ossie was going through and tried to make things easier for him.

It's no secret Ossie loves England, the people and playing for Spurs, but he couldn't disguise how worried he was about the situation and his family and friends back in Argentina.

My wife Maureen and I are very friendly with Ossie and Silvia and their children Pablo and Frederico. We'll miss them a lot.

Spurs held a celebration dinner for Ossie and Silvia after our Semi-Final victory. Ossie gave a little speech and thanked us all for our understanding and friendship.

Playing at Villa Park took tremendous courage for my friend. But he took it all in his stride and proved what a fabulous example he is to his profession.

The chants of a section of the Leicester crowd was shameful, but their team proved how they felt by seeking Ossie out to shake his hand at the end.

Privilege

It was a fitting and glorious farewell for one of the nicest men I've had the privilege to meet.

There seems little chance that he will be back to play against Q.P.R. in the all-London final at Wembley.

I'll be commenting on Rangers in the Cup Final issue, but for the moment I'd like to offer my congratulations to them and manager Terry Venables.

But for a while we must forget about Cup Finals and concentrate on winning League points to maintain our Championship challenge.

What's Tottenham's secret this season? A combination of experience, hard work, confidence and skill. They've all come right at once. When that happens you've got the right formula for success.

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STEVE ARCHIBALD



Ossie Ardiles says goodbye — perhaps for good.



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14 DAY'S DELIVERY

JUST ten minutes was the time it took to convince Watford that they had discovered a young star in the making in teenage winger John Barnes.

Seventeen-year-old Barnes was playing for Sudbury Court in the Middlesex League when Watford's assistant manager Bertie Mee came along on a scout's recommendation to watch him.

Mee stayed just ten minutes, and when Barnes discovered this fact he felt sure he would not be hearing again from the ambitious Vicarage Road club.

But he was wrong.

For that brief assessment at the end of last season resulted in John being invited to Watford for trials.

Manager Graham Taylor didn't need any longer than his highly respected assistant manager to make up his mind about John's exciting talent.

"We signed him and then put him through pre-season training. He had two reserve games early on, made his debut by coming on as substitute against Oldham and has never looked back. From that point, only injury has kept him out," says the astute Taylor.

"He scores brilliant goals from the left-wing

Why JOHN BARNES turned down England



and had an incredible match against Manchester United when we beat them in the F.A. Cup. He filled an emergency role in midfield and confidently matched Ray Wilkins and Bryan Robson.

"Those tremendous 90 minutes just about sum up the transformation in this lad's life. Six months before taking a major role in helping us beat one of the world's great clubs, he was playing in local league football."

Barnes agrees that Taylor is a marvellous motivator of young players and this talented Jamaican could be the best of the discoveries by Watford's manager: a lithe, lethal player with the ability to demolish defences in one explosion of high speed skill.

"But he doesn't beat opposing players purely by pace; it is his touch on the ball which is the decisive factor," insists Taylor. "He can make short, sharp breaks over a few yards even when he has a full-back tight on him."

Barnes puts his success down to pre-season preparation. "Because I went through that programme of professional fitness building, I was able to adjust to the speed of Second Division football. If I had come into football midway through the season, it would have been much harder."

Admired

Only one disappointment mars John's dazzling progress with Watford. His father, Ken, a colonel in the Jamaican army, has left Britain in the service of his country — and it was his coaching which produced that close control skill so fervently admired by Taylor.

"My father, who played for Jamaica in 1967, taught me the game," explains John. "He was posted here as military attache at the Jamaican High Commission in 1976 and that is what brought me to London."

The one certainty is that John will not follow his father as a Jamaican international. He has been approached already over a possible youth cap by England — and rejected it. "I am not going to make up my mind about international allegiance for a year," he says firmly.

Any of the four Home countries can invite John to become their player: as a West Indian, he is officially available to any of them.

Luther Blissett, who shares with John the bulk of Watford's busy goalscoring, was also born in Jamaica. He opted for England and won four caps at Under-21 level in 1979-80... but then came to a full stop in his international ambitions.

So, with that example alongside him in the Watford dressing room and with all the demands of becoming a League professional, John has wisely decided to take his time — but he is already being chased.



Ouch!

I COULDN'T help thinking of a humorous caption after seeing the picture in SHOOT dated April 3 of Kevin Keegan and Steve Moran celebrating a goal (above).

It goes like this: Moran — "Sorry to spoil your enjoyment, Kev, but you're standing on my, ah, toe!"

The two features I liked best in that SHOOT were the Crossword, which I completed for the first time for a long while, and the fabulous action shots from the Milk Cup Final.

MICHAEL CLACKEN,
BIRMINGHAM.

● I'm pleased you get fun out of football, Michael. That's half the enjoyment of following our national sport.

Don't buy Diego

I WAS shocked when I heard Arsenal had bid £4 million for Diego Maradona. He may have a lot of skill but no player is worth that.

Surely Arsenal would be wiser to buy about five players with that money.

GAVIN HAMIL,
LINCOLN.

● Arsenal didn't bid for Diego. But I take your point.

Smashing time

MY soccer crazy son is never without a football. He may sound like any normal eight-year-old but I have just had my 18th window replaced because of him playing football and we have only been in the house two years!

I wonder if this is a record.

MRS. B. SAULTER,
MERSEYSIDE.

Rough play — no pay

BRIAN CLOUGH'S statement "no play, no pay" hits the nail right on the head. I talk about the rough, careless and also dangerous tactics a great number of footballers take.

This season stands out for me as the season for players being booked and sent-off. If players knew they were going to get punished through their pockets for bad conduct, the game would almost certainly clean-up.

COLIN GRAINGER,
EDEN VALE, SUNDERLAND.

● One problem, Colin. The referee occasionally gets it wrong and punishes a player unfairly. For him to lose a week's wages unjustifiably would be a sickener.

GOAL-LINES

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Stevens is magic

AS an avid Brighton fan I would like to know when their young defender Gary Stevens is going to get recognition for his outstanding performances.

He is constantly ignored by the media and most of all Ron Greenwood and his Under-21 officials.

JONATHAN VENNER,
CROWBOROUGH.

Sack 'em, Ron

THIS is a warning to Ron Greenwood and his England team. If Ron continues to be indecisive about his choice of goalkeeper and continues to play Phil Neal, Mick Mills, Phil Thompson and Dave Watson in his back four, England will pay dearly.

Players such as Viv Anderson, Russell Osman and Derek Statham should be given a chance. Ron should also decide on Peter Shilton and groom Gary Bailey as his understudy.

PAUL FITCH,
NOTTINGHAM.

● Keep this up, Paul and you could be England boss one day. But give Ron Greenwood credit for getting England to the World Cup for the first time since 1970. And he's not finished yet!

Stand down, Paisley

WHILE admitting the skill and ability of Ronnie Whelan, I feel that Bob Paisley has mistimed the departure of Ray Kennedy to Swansea.

Already having admitted his hastiness in letting Ray Clemence leave, with an inexperienced goalkeeper having a bad effect on the defence, I think he has made the same mistake again.

Although Whelan is playing well, I think he will lose some of his zeal and pace. Meanwhile, Kennedy is still knocking in goals. Perhaps it is time Paisley stood down, preferably for John Toshack.

STEPHEN AULT,
COLCHESTER.

● Stand down after leading Liverpool to 16 trophies? Heaven help us!

What about wingers, Jack?

I THINK Sheffield Wednesday's Jack Charlton would make a good England manager, but I understand he says wingers are not needed. Surely it has been proved that wingers are still needed by England.

VICTOR BUTCHERS,
TENTERDEN.



Ronnie Whelan has scored many vital goals for Liverpool this season, including this one against Everton.

Shanks tribute

SHEER poppycock is the only way to describe Philip Wall's comments claiming Ron Saunders was on a par with Bill Shankly.

With all respect, Mr Saunders does not compare with the supreme who started Liverpool's success story.

RORY HEGARTY,
HALIFAX.

SOLO STYLE

It has been reported that dedicated Subbuteo players have started keeping in trim solo-style.

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designed to practise accurate passing.

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is a target board to clip onto the front of a goal.



CUP FEVER HITS NEW PITCH



As summer fast approaches, World Cup fever continues to sweep across the country. Not even the bad weather can deter loyal Subbuteo fans. It seems that nothing can put them off their favourite sport.

American

Players have even been spotted playing on a new Indoor Edition. Based on the popular American six-a-side game, this new Subbuteo soccer game has a solid, fold-away pitch which eliminates

the need for a table or other base. So you can play Subbuteo anywhere, anytime!

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Challenge

Players will be pleased to hear that the new High Bouncing Subbuteo balls are available now too. "A real challenge," says Bob. And the

other new balls in the Subbuteo Club are a pack of three Ariva Balls, each printed with an exciting brand name.

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IAN RUSH SHOOTS ON SIGHT

IAN Rush, one of the young discoveries of the season, is battling to end it as the First Division's top goalscorer. Yet the youngster who is well on his way to 30 goals says incredibly: "I used to be scared to shoot."

"When I came into the team at the end of last season the goals just wouldn't come and I became shy of having a pop."

"Fortunately, they have been going in from the start this season and since then the manager has encouraged me to be even more selfish. He now tells me to shoot on sight."

First Division goalkeepers must wish Paisley would keep his mouth shut. Rush has been tormenting them enough already.

Rush has knocked in some crackers this season, including a hat-trick in a League game at Notts County. But there's no doubt which one gave him the most satisfaction — the deciding third goal in Liverpool's League Cup Final win over Spurs.

"It was fantastic to play at Wembley, let alone score. I just touched in my chance."

"To be honest, it looked like one of those days when we were never going to score. There were only a few minutes left when we got the equaliser, though I didn't know that at the time. We always fancied ourselves in extra-time."

A few days later, Liverpool were knocked out of the European Cup when they lost 2-0 in Sofia and Rush says: "That was very disappointing. But now we're determined to try and win the League to get back into the competition next season."

Amazingly, Rush didn't get into the Liverpool first team line-up until October. After five goals in six reserve games, he came on as substitute and scored another against Finland's Oulun Palloseura in the European Cup.

He scored two in each of his first two full games to ensure his place for the rest of the season.

"Scoring has really helped my confidence, though I'm surprised I

have netted so many. If someone had told me at the start of the season that I'd get 20, I would have been more than pleased."

"Playing alongside Kenny Dalglish has been a tremendous help. He has laid on a few goals for me this season and when I get tired sometimes, he keeps me at it."

"Another advantage of playing with Kenny is that defenders are always keeping one eye on him and that makes it easier for me."

"Naturally, they are giving me a bit more attention than they used to, but you can't ignore a player like Kenny."

Rush has found that his own game has improved, too. "I think I am turning better in the box and my heading has improved, too. Not that I've scored many with my head."

'Very poor'

"It has improved, though. It was very poor when I first came into the side."

Rush has already got the first of what promises to be a whole cupboard full of medals at Anfield. But he's got his eyes on a Championship medal this season.

"That's the one I've always wanted and I think we have got a fair chance of making it this season."

"There are still a few teams in with a chance but we must be there or thereabouts."

"Swansea have done tremendously well and they're going to be around at the finish."

"Manchester United and Ipswich are obvious threats and you can't rule out Southampton. Spurs are a danger, too, but they've got to win a lot of games in hand."

"It's going to be an interesting finish to the season. But I'm hoping we can get there."

Rush scores the decisive third goal in Liverpool's Wembley defeat of Spurs in the League Cup Final.



Liverpool manager
Bob Paisley

World
Cup stars
to watch

STEVE COPP

ENGLAND



ELL



No player has done more to revive England's international fortunes than Manchester United's Steve Coppell.

He was carried off the Wembley pitch with damaged knee ligaments last November, but Steve had done as much as anyone on that glorious night for English football to ensure that Ron Greenwood's team beat the Hungarians and qualified for the World Cup Finals.

Steve's is a rags to riches story that will reach a climax in Spain this summer. Manchester United paid just £40,000, roughly the price of a small detached house today, to take him from Tranmere Rovers to Old Trafford seven years ago.

He won his first cap against Italy at Wembley in November, 1977 and remained a key figure in most Ron Greenwood squads, culminating in his 34th appearance for his country against the Hungarians.

Fifty caps is Steve's target, but first the 26-year-old winger is determined to taste glory at the World Cup.

Brazilian stars Zico and Edir close in on Steve in an attempt to halt the England winger during the clash at Wembley.



Second Division Q.P.R., reached their first F.A. Cup Final by beating WBA at Highbury. Bob Hazell's fine marking job on Albion dangerman Cyrille Regis had a lot to do with that result.



F.A. CUP SEMI-FINALS

Clive Allen scores Rangers' all-important goal. Ally Robertson's attempted clearance hit Clive on the leg and flew straight into the Albion net.



THEY'RE THERE!



Ossie Ardiles ignored abuse from Leicester fans to steer Tottenham back to Wembley in his last game before joining Argentina's World Cup squad.



Garth Crooks (partially hidden) blasts the first of Tottenham's goals in their 2-0 defeat of Second Division Leicester City at Villa Park.

WELL, we made it . . . I'm talking, of course, about our Scottish Cup Semi-Final replay victory over little, plucky, part-time Forfar from the Second Division earlier this month.

Boy, did we take some stick — a lot of it justified — for not settling the game first time around.

The manager, John Greig, told us what he thought of our performance, for the want of a better word, in the first goalless draw.

We didn't play at all well and I'm not going to start making excuses.

Mr Greig said we have a duty to beat teams such as Forfar and he's quite right, of course, but let's give credit to our opponents.

They really made things difficult for us.

Look at it this way. For us, it was just another hurdle to get over before reaching our seventh suc-



Jim Bett knocked in another after half an hour and we coasted after that.

Now we are only 90 minutes away from yet another appearance in the European Cup-Winners' Cup and I'm sure you will see the real Rangers in action against Aberdeen at Hampden on Cup Final day on May 22.

Surely we can't play again as we did in that first game against Forfar. I don't think my heart can stand it.

A word of praise, too, for my old mate Stewart Kennedy, the Forfar goalkeeper. He played really well against us in both games and proved he is still a fine 'keeper.

And talking of goalkeepers, I think Scotland manager Jock Stein

is going to be spoilt for choice when it comes to naming his three 'keepers for the World Cup Finals.

Obviously Alan Rough will be making the trip to Spain, and it looks as though St Mirren's Billy Thomson will be his deputy. Who will get that third place?

Aberdeen's Jim Leighton has impressed me lately.

No fluke

He saved a penalty kick from Jim Bett at Ibrox last month and, proving that was no fluke, he saved another from Celtic's George McCluskey at Parkhead a week later. That's not bad going at all.

And I must also say that our own Jim Stewart must be in with a chance.

Scottish goalkeepers are often slammed by critics, especially those South of the border, but it looks as though the three 'keepers in Jock Stein's World Cup pool will all be home-based.

That's got to be bad news for the likes of Anglos George Wood (Arsenal), and Jim Blyth (Coventry).

That's all for this week . . .

Ally Dawson

'BAD NEWS FOR ANGLOS'

cessive Scottish Cup Final.

For Forfar, it was the biggest game in their history.

Their players didn't need any motivating against us. You would have thought it was a World Cup Final the way they raced around.

We didn't really start to play in that first game. There was a ghost-like atmosphere and it was hard to believe it was indeed a Scottish Cup Semi-Final.

There were only 16,000 fans at Hampden that afternoon and in a vast stadium like that a crowd of that number is simply lost.

However, it was the biggest crowd Forfar had played in front of all season and it probably inspired them.

Praise

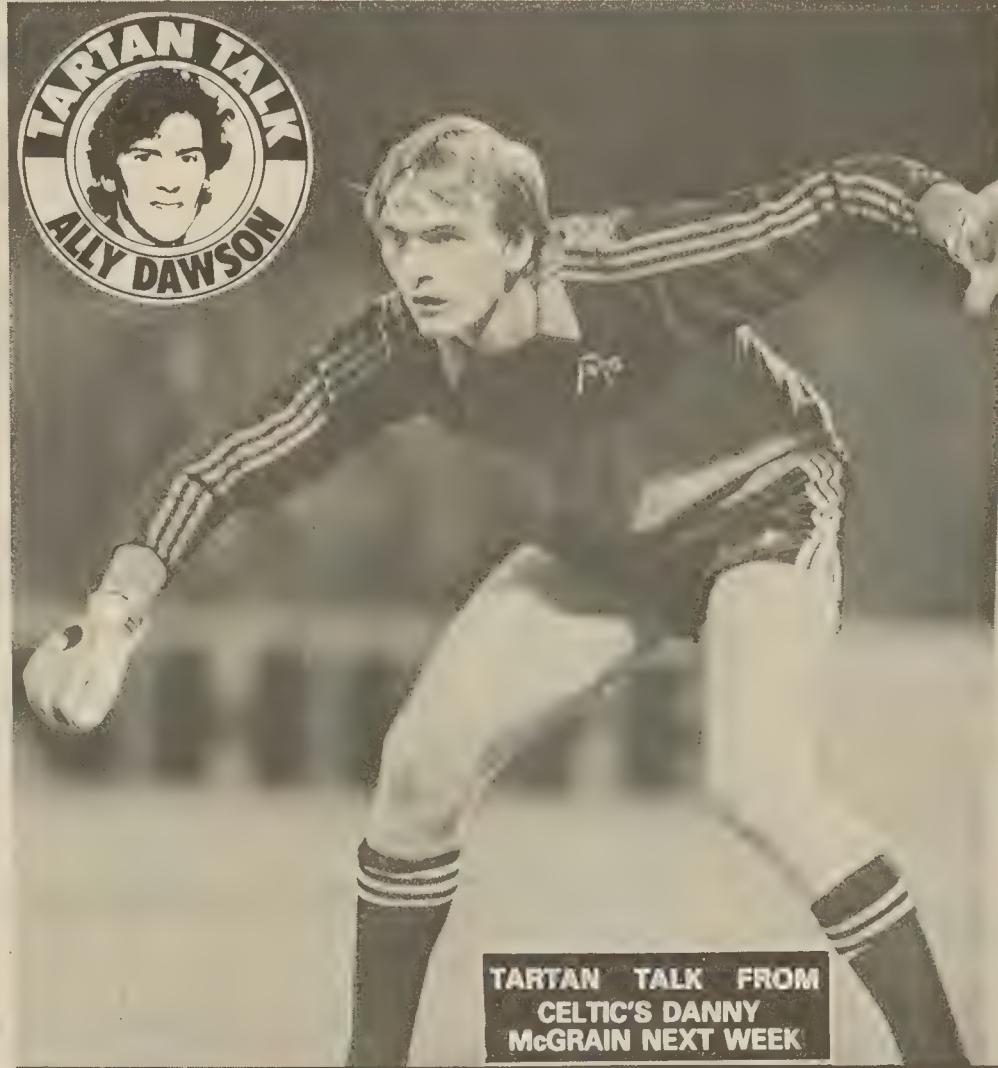
Anyway, we struggled and they did exceptionally well. Have a go at us if you want but, at the same time, Forfar do deserve some praise for making such a game of it.

We were never in any trouble in the replay.

I suppose there was a fair bit of pressure on us in that second game. The vultures were gathering ready to swoop if Forfar had pulled off the most remarkable result in the Scottish Cup history.

Yes, I would say if they had beaten us it would have been a bigger sensation than even a certain Berwick Rangers winning 1-0 over us in 1967,

Thankfully, we were in control throughout and an early goal from Derek Johnstone, who missed the first game through suspension, put us on our way.



LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Saturday, March 27

(continued)

Second Division

BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Bell) 8,362
C. PALACE (0) 0
 Blackburn: Gennoe, Branagan, Rathbone, Speight, Keeley, Fazackerley, Miller, Stonehouse, Bell, Garner, Brotherton.
C. Palace: Barron, Hinselwood, Boult, Price, Brooks, Lovell (Bason), Giles, Hilaire, Langley, Mabbutt, Cannon.

DERBY 0
LUTON 0 15,836
 Derby: Banovic, Barton, Buckley, Skivington, Sheridan, McAlie, George, Attley, Wilson, Swindiehurst, Emerson. Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Money, Horton, Goodyear, Donaghay, Hill, Stein, White, Turner, Moss.

GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Kilmore) 6,216
WREXHAM (0) 1 (Fox)
 Grimsby: Batch, Moore (D), Crombie, Waters, Cooper, Moore (K), Broly, Kilmore, Drinkell, Beacock (Whyman), Cummings.
Wrexham: Niedzwiecki, Jones, Beter (Vinten), Davis, Dowman, Ronson, Leman, McNeil, Edwards, Fox, Carruthers.

LEICESTER (0) 3 (Young 2, MacDonald) 13,681
CHARLTON (1) 1 (Hales)
 Leicester: Walker, Williams, Friar, Peake, May, O'Neill (Melrose), Lynex, Linesker, Young, Wilson, McDonald. Charlton: Phillips (J), Taylor, Elliott, Mehmet, Gittin, Phillips (L), Ambrose (Lansdowne), Ward, Hobbs, Berry, Robinson.

NEWCASTLE (1) 1 (Waddle) 26,987
CHELSEA (0) 0
 Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Saunders, Trebilcot, Connelly, Haddock, Mills, Martin, Varadi, Cartwright, Waddle.
Chelsea: Francis, Locke, Hutchings, Nutton, Chivers, Pates, Rhoades-Brown (Walker), Viljoen, Lai, Taylor, Fillery.

NORWICH (0) 2 (Jack, Bertschin) 13,720
CARDIFF (0) 1 (Gilbert)
 Norwich: Woods, Haylock, Downs, McGuire, Watson, Watson, Jack, O'Neill, Deahan, Bertschin, Kishman. Cardiff: Healey, Jones, Gilbert, Pontin, Hughes (McAllister), Grapes, Henderson, Kitchen, Bennett (D), Stevens.

OLDHAM (1) 1 (Heaton pen) 8,933
BARNESLEY (1) 1 (Glavin)
 Oldham: McDonnell, Hoolickin, Ryan, Keegan, Firm, Fletcher, Wyld, Heaton, Palmer, McDonough, Atkinson.
Barnsley: Horn, Longden, Chambers, Glavin, Banks, McCarthy, Evans (McHale), Walker, Aylott, Mann, Birch.

ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Seasman) 10,472
QPR (0) 0
 Rotherham: Mountford, Forrest, Breckin, Hughes, Stancliffe, Green, Towner, Gow, Moore, Samman, McEwan.
QPR: Hucker (Burke), Neill, Fanwick, Waddock, Hazell, Wicks, Mickiewich, Flanagan, Allen, Stainrod, Dawes.

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 2 (Taylor, Megson) 16,460
ORIENT (0) 0
 Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Williamson, Smith, Pickering, Taylor, Megson, Mirocevic, Bannister, Pearson, Curran (Shelton).
Orient: Day, Foster, Roffey, Fisher, Gray, Banjo, Godfrey, Houchen, Moores, Silkman, Sussex.

SHREWSBURY (1) 1 (Atkins)
CAMBRIDGE (0) 0 3,159
 Shrewsbury: Wardle, Leonard, Johnson, Cross, Blake, McLaren, Biggins (Gibson), Tong, Atkins, Dungworth, Balfe.
Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Nichols (Finney), Cartwright, O'Neill, Gibbons, Reilly, Streete.

WATFORD (1) 3 (Lohman, Blissett 2) 12,937
BOLTON (0) 0
 Watford: Steele, Rice, Pritchett, Taylor, Terry, Bolton, Rostrom (Armstrong), Blissett, Jenkins, Lohman, Barnes.
Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Bennett, Henry, Jones, McElhinney, Chandler, Foster, Gowling, Hogan, Langley (Berry).

Third Division

BRISTOL CITY (0) 0
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Bowen) 5,997
CHESTER (0) 0
PRESTON (0) 1 (Elliott) 2,842

FULHAM (3) 4 (Brown 2, Davies, O'Driscoll)
CARLISLE (0) 1 (Robson) 7,477

GILLINGHAM (1) 2 (White pen, Price)
BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 5,100

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 1 (Hanvey)
DONCASTER (0) 2 (Cawthorne, Harle) 6,871

LINCOLN (0) 1 (Stead (og))
SOUTHEND (0) 1 (Yates) 5,455

NEWPORT (2) 2 (Serella (og), Tynan)
WALSALL (2) 2 (Penn 2) 3,484

OXFORD (0) 1 (Lawrence)
CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Bonnyman pen) 6,215

PORTRSMOUTH (0) 1 (Rafferty)
PLYMOUTH (0) 0 9,551

READING (2) 4 (Dixon 2, Kearney, Sanchez)
EXETER (0) 0 3,365

WIMBLEDON 0
BURNLEY 0 2,642

Fourth Division

BLACKPOOL (0) 2 (Bamber 2)
PETERBOROUGH (1) 2 (Keck, Cooke) 2,855

BURY (0) 1 (Hilton (M))
ALDERSHOT (0) 1 (Wanklyn) 3,068

CREWE (0) 2 (Palios, Williams)
NORTHAMPTON (2) 2 (Saxby 2) 1,801

HARTLEPOOL (0) 0
BRADFORD (2) 2 (Gallagher pen, Bird (og)) 2,512

HEREFORD (1) 3 (Phillips, Price 2)
WIGAN (0) 0 4,191

MANSFIELD (1) 3 (Caldwell 2, Cannell)
HALIFAX (1) 2 (Davidson 2) 2,197

PORT VALE (1) 1 (Deakin pen)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1 (Morgan) 3,004

TRANMERE (1) 2 (Kerr 2)
SHEFFIELD UTD (1) 2 (Kenworthy 2 pens) 4,661

TORQUAY (1) 2 (Cox, Cooper)
ROCHDALE (1) 1 (Hilditch) 1,554

Scottish Premier

CELTIC (0) 0
ABERDEEN (0) 1 (Kennedy) 30,080

Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Reid (Moyes), Aitken, McAdam, Crainie, MacLeod, Sullivan, McCluskey, Burns, McGarvey.

Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Rougvie (McMaster), Simpson, McLeish, Miller, Cooper, Strachan, McGhee, Hewitt (Cowan), Weir.

DUNDEE UTD (2) 5 (Sturrock 3, Milne 2)

MORTON (0) 0 6,000
 Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Stark, Malpas, Gough, Hegarty, Narey, Gibson, Milne, Holt (Bannon), Sturrock, Dodds (Reilly).

Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Duffy, McNeil (McNab), Docherty, Cochrane, Hutchison, Houston (Gavigan).

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 2 (Taylor, Megson)

ORIENT (0) 0 18,460

Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Williamson, Smith, Pickering, Taylor, Megson, Mirocevic, Bannister, Pearson, Curran (Shelton).

Orient: Day, Foster, Roffey, Fisher, Gray, Banjo, Godfrey, Houchen, Moores, Silkman, Sussex.

SHREWSBURY (1) 1 (Atkins)

CAMBRIDGE (0) 0 3,159

Shrewsbury: Wardle, Leonard, Johnson, Cross, Blake, McLaren, Biggins (Gibson), Tong, Atkins, Dungworth, Balfe.

Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Nichols (Finney), Cartwright, O'Neill, Gibbons, Reilly, Streete.

WATFORD (1) 3 (Lohman, Blissett 2)

BOLTON (0) 0 12,937

Watford: Steele, Rice, Pritchett, Taylor, Terry, Bolton, Rostrom (Armstrong), Blissett, Jenkins, Lohman, Barnes.

Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Bennett, Henry, Jones, McElhinney, Chandler, Foster, Gowling, Hogan, Langley (Berry).

Third Division

BRISTOL CITY (0) 0
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Bowen)

5,997

CHESTER (0) 0
PRESTON (0) 1 (Elliott)

2,842

Alan Sunderland, who scored both goals and was then sent-off in Arsenal's 2-2 draw at Tottenham

HIBS 0
RANGERS 0

12,390

Hibs: McArthur, Sneddon, Schaeffer, Brazil, Paterson, Flavell, McNamara, McLeod, Rae, Murray, Duncan.

Rangers: Stewart, Dawson, Black, Jardine, McClelland, Bett, Dalziel, Russell, MacDonald, Redford (Davies), Lyall (Robertson).

PARTICK (0) 0
DUNDEE (2) 2 (Sinclair, Fraser) 2,500

Partick: Rough, McKinnon, Whittaker (Jardine), Doyle, Dunlop, Watson, Park, O'Hara, Johnston, McDonald, Higgins (Sweeney).

Dundee: Geddes, McKinnie, Cameron, Fraser, Smith, Glenrie, Mackie, Fleming (Stephen), Sinclair, McGeachie, Kidd.

ST MIRREN (1) 3 (Stark, McDougall, McAvennie)

4,289

St Mirren: Thomson, Beckett, Abercrombie, Richardson, McCormack, Copland, Bone, Stark, McDougall, McAvennie, Scanlon.

Airdrie: Martin, Cairney (Walker (T)), Rodger, Campbell, Anderson (G), Anderson (N), McKeown, Clark, Walker (C), Gordon, McGuire.

Tuesday, March 30

First Division

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 (Shaw, Withe)

28,440

WBA (1) 1 (King)

Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Williams, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Heard, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley.

WBA: Grew, Batson, Webb, Bennett, Wile, Robertson, Cross, King, Brown, Owen, Mackenzie.



Aston Villa striker Gary Shaw

Scottish First

AYR (1) 1 (Frye)

E. STIRLING (0) 1 (McCaig) 1,293

CLYDEBANK (0) 2 (Hughes, Ronald)

HEARTS (0) 1 (Byrne pen) 1,731

FALKIRK (0) 2 (McIntosh, Conn)

ST JOHNSTONE (0) 1 (Rutherford) 2,500

MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (McLaughlin)

KILMARNOCK (0) 0 4,816

QoS (0) 0

HAMILTON (1) 3 (Fairlie 2 (1 pen), Deeney) 500

RAITH (0) 0

DUNFERMLINE (1) 1 (Stewart) 1,500

Scottish Second

ALLOA (1) 2 (McComb 2)

CLYDE (0) 2 (O'Neill 2) 1,210

ARBROATH 0

MEADOWBANK 0 686

BERWICK (1) 3 (Halley (og), Marshall, O'Connor)

EAST FIFE (0) 0 797

BRECHIN (0) 0

STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 1 (Meakin) 400

COWDENBEATH (2) 3 (Hyslop 2, Liddle)

MONTRÉO (0) 2 (Campbell, Fletcher) 315

STIRLING (0) 1 (Murdoch pen)

ALBION (3) 4 (Shields, Leishman 2, Burgess) 300

Third Division

MILLWALL 0

SWINDON 0 4,391

WEST HAM (1) 1 (Van der Elst) 20,272

Swansea: Davies, Robinson, Hadzibabic (Stanley), Rakitic, Kennedy, Jones, Gilbert, Ponting, Micallef, Mullion, Grapes, Henderson, Kitchen, Bennett (D), Stevens.

West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Orr, Martin, Devonshire, Van der Elst, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Allen.

Second Division

CARDIFF (2) 2 (Stevens, Moore (D) (og))

3,924

Cardiff: Healey, Jones, Gilbert, Ponting, Micallef, Mullion, Grapes, Henderson, Kitchen, Bennett (D), Stevens.

Grimsby: Batch, Moore (D), Crombie, Stone, Cooper (Ford), Moore (K), Broly, Kilmore, Whyman, Mitchell, Cummings.

LUTON (0) 2 (Moss pen, Hill)

9,716

Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Money, Horton, Goodyear, Donaghay, Hill, Stein, White, Turner, Moss.

Orient: Day, Foster, Peach, Fisher, Gray, Banjo, Godfrey, Houchen, Moores (Highgate), Silkman, Sussex.

Second Division

QP (1) 2 (Flanagan, Stainrod)

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 0 11,710

QP: Hucker, Neil, Dawes, Mickiewich, Wicks, Roeder, Currie, Flanagan, Allen, Stainrod, Gregory.

Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Williamson, Smith, Pickering, Taylor, Megson, Mirocevic (Shelton), Bannister, Pearson, Curran.

Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Friar, Peake, May, O'Neill, Lynex, Lineker, Young (Melrose), Wilson, Kelly.

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCO

Third Division

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 2 (Kennedy pen, Hotte)
NEWPORT (0) 0 4,205

Fourth Division

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Allinson)	1,904
CREWE (1) 1 (Palios)	
SCUNTHORPE 0	
STOCKPORT 0	1,815
SHEFFIELD UTD (1) 1 (Trussell)	
BRADFORD (0) 1 (Gallagher pen)	24,593
WIGAN (2) 2 (Bradd, Methven)	
BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Morgan pen)	7,329

Scottish First

QUEEN'S PARK (2) 2 (Verrechia, McCulloch)
KILMARNOCK (1) 3 (McDicken, Gallagher 2) 800

Scottish Second

CLYDE (2) 3 (Docherty, O'Neill 2)	
STIRLING (2) 3 (Colquhoun, Steele, Torrance)	700
STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 0	
ALLOA (0) 1 (Holt)	430

Wednesday, March 31

Second Division

NEWCASTLE 0	
C. PALACE 0	21,610
Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Saunders, Trewick, Carney, Haddock, Mills, Martin, Varadi, Cartwright, Waddle.	
C. Palace: Barron, Bason, Hinshelwood, Price, Cannon, Gilbert, Giles, Smillie, Langley, Mabbatt, Brooks.	

Third Division

CHESTER (0) 1 (Simpson)	
WIMBLEDON (0) 1 (Joseph)	1,359
LINCOLN (0) 1 (Cockerill)	
BURNLEY (0) 1 (Steven)	6,148
OXFORD (1) 1 (Kearns)	
GILLINGHAM (1) 1 (Adams)	5,223

Fourth Division

HARTLEPOOL (1) 1 (Brown)	
ROCHDALE (0) 1 (Wellings pen)	1,259
HEREFORD (0) 1 (Showers)	
BOURNEMOUTH (1) 2 (Morgan, Funnell)	3,415

Scottish Premier

DUNDEE UTD (0) 0	
CELTIC (1) 2 (Burns 2)	15,000
Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Stark, Malpas, Gough (Bannon), Hegarty, Narey, Kirkwood, Milne, Holt, Sturrock, Dods.	
Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Reid, Aitken, McAdam, MacLeod, Crainie, Sullivan, McGarvey (McStay), McCluskey, Burns.	

RANGERS (1) 1 (MacDonald)	6,000
AIRDRIE (0) 0	
Rangers: Stewart, Dawson, Black, Jardine, McClelland, Bett, Dalziel, Russell, Robertson, MacDonald, Davis.	
Airdrie: Martin, McCluskey, Rodger, Campbell, Anderson (G), Anderson (N), McKeown, Flood, Walker, Gordon, McGuire.	

Scottish First

RAITH (0) 0	
HEARTS (0) 3 (McCloy 2, MacDonald)	2,500
ST. JOHNSTONE (1) 2 (Morton 2 (1 pen))	
DUNFERMLINE (0) 1 (Forrest)	1,200

Scottish Second

ALBION (1) 2 (Houston 2)
MEADOWBANK (0) 0 600

Friday, April 2

First Division

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (Dalglish)	
NOTTS COUNTY (0)	30,126
Liverpool: Grobelaar, Neal, Kennedy, Lawrence, Whelan, Thompson, Dalglish, Lee, Rush, McDermott, Johnston.	
Notts Co: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Goodwin, Kilcline, Richards, McCullagh, Chiedozie, Harkouk, McParland (Hunt), Mair.	

Second Division

BARNESLEY (2) 3 (Birch 2, Walker)	
ROTHERHAM (0) 0	23,059
Barnsley: Horn, Longden, Chambers, Mann, Banks, McCarthy, Law, Walker, Aylott, McHale, Birch.	
Rotherham: Mountford, Forrest (Henson), Breckin, Hughes, Stancilffe, Green, Towner, Gow, Moore, Seasman, McEwan.	

Third Division

PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Hodges)	
NEWPORT (0) 2 (Elsey, Bishop)	5,148
Plymouth: Shilton, Gunn, Bowyer, McGovern, Young, Gray, Roebuck, Wallace, Fashanu (Plummer), Proctor, Robertson.	
Newport: Southall, Borrows, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Wright, McMahon, Irvine, Heath, Sharp (Ainscow), Eastoe, Ross.	

Fourth Division

HALIFAX (2) 4 (Firth, Davison 2, Spooner)	
STOCKPORT (0) 1 (Williams)	2,135
SCUNTHORPE (1) 2 (Moss, Telfer)	
COLCHESTER (0) 1 (Bremner)	1,762
WIGAN (1) 4 (Barrow, McMahon, Methven 2)	
YORK (1) 2 (Byrne, Smith)	6,029

Saturday, April 3

F.A. Cup

(Semi-Final)

QPR (0) 1 (Allen)	
WBA (0) 0 At Highbury	45,015
QPR: Hucker, Fenwick, Gillard, Waddock, Hazell, Roeder, Currie, Flanagan, Allen, Stainrod, Micklewhite.	
WBA: Grew, Batson, Statham, Zondervan, Wile, Robertson, Bennett, King (Owen), Regis, Cross, Mackenzie.	

LEICESTER (0) 0	
TOTTENHAM (0) 2 (Crooks, Wilson (og)) At Villa Park	46,606
Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Friar, Peake, May, O'Neill, Lynex, Lineker, Young (Melrose), Wilson, Kelly, Tottenham: Clemence, Hughton, Roberts (Miller), Price, Hazard, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks.	



Celtic marksman Tommy Burns

First Division

BRIGHTON (1) 1 (McNab pen)	
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Keegan)	20,977
Brighton: Digweed, Shanks, Nelson, Greasham, Foster, Gatting, Stevens, Ritchie, Robinson, McNab, Thomas.	
Southampton: Katalinic, Golac, Holmes, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Keegan, Channon, Puckett (Wallace), Armstrong, Ball.	

IPSWICH (1) 1 (Wark)	
COVENTRY (0) 0	20,411
Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, McCall, Mills, Osman, German, Wark, Muhrer, D'Avray, Brazil, Gates.	
Coventry: Sealey, Thomas (Thompson), Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Whitton, Francis, Hateley, English, Butterworth.	

LEEDS 0	
MANCHESTER UTD 0	31,118
Leeds: Lukic, Hird, Gray (E), Hart, Cherry, Thomas, Graham, Worthington, Connor, Barnes.	
Man. Utd: Bailey, Duxbury, Albiston, Wilkins, Moran, Buchan, Robson, McGarvey, Stapleton, Moses, Coppel.	

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 0	
WEST HAM (0) 1 (Goddard)	30,875
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, Ryan, Reeves, Hareide, Hartford, Jackson.	
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Orr, Martin, Devonshire, Van der Elst, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Allen.	

NOTTM. FOREST (0) 0	
EVERTON (0) 1 (McMahon)	17,323
Nottn. Forest: Shilton, Gunn, Bowyer, McGovern, Young, Gray, Roebuck, Wallace, Fashanu (Plummer), Proctor, Robertson.	
Everton: Southall, Borrows, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Wright, McMahon, Irvine, Heath, Sharp (Ainscow), Eastoe, Ross.	

SUNDERLAND (0) 0	
MIDDLESBRO. (1) 2 (Ashcroft, Baxter)	19,006
Sunderland: Turner, Venison, Munro, Hindmarch, Arnott, Elliott, Buckley, McCoist (Ursem), Rowell, Pickering, Cummings.	
Middlesbrough: Platt, Natrass, Bailey, Ross, Baxter, Wood, Bolton, Otto, Hodgson, Ashcroft (Woof), Thomas.	

WOLVES (0) 1 (Eves)	
ARSENAL (0) 1 (Davies)	11,532
Wolves: Bradshaw, Humphrey, Palmer, Matthews, Pender, Coy Hibbit, Carr, Richards, Eves, Clarke, Arsenal: Wood, Hollins, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Whyte, Meade (Hawley), Sunderland, Davis, Robson, Rix.	

Second Division

BOLTON (1) 1 (Thompson)	
SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Atkins pen)	5,833
Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Bennett, Henry (Langley), Jones, McElhinney, Chandler, Cantello, Gowling, Reid, Thompson.	
Shrewsbury: Wardle, Leonard, Johnson (Petts), Cross, Bates, Maclaren, Biggins, Tong, Atkins, Dungworth, Turner.	

CAMBRIDGE (0) 1 (Fallon)	
NORWICH (0) 2 (Mendham, Deehan)	7,035
Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, O'Neill, Cartwright, Spriggs (Turner), Gibbins, Finney, Goldsmith.	
Norwich: Woods, Haylock, Downs, McGuire, Walford, Watson, Bennett, O'Neill, Deehan, Bertschin, Mendham.	

CARDIFF (0) 2 (Bennett, Micallef)	
WATFORD (0) 0	6,754
Cardiff: Healey, Jones, Gilbert, Ponting, Micallef, Mullin, Grapes, Henderson, Kitchen, Bennett (D), Stevens.	
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Pritchett, Taylor, Terry, Bolton, Rostron, Blissett, Jenkins, Lohman (Armstrong), Barnes.	

CHARLTON (0) 0	
NEWCASTLE (1) 1 (Waddle)	6,357
Charlton: Johns, Naylor, Elliott, Mehmet, Gritt, Phillips, Ambrose, Walsh, Hales, Berry, Robinson (Lansdowne).	
Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Carney, Haddock, Saunders, Martin, Cartwright, Trewick, Mills, Varadi, Waddle.	

CHELSEA (1) 2 (Mayes 2)	
OLDHAM (0) 2 (Heaton, Wylde)	8,939
Chelsea: Francis, Locke, Hutchings, Nutton, Chivers, Pates, Rhoades-Brown, Walker, Lee, Mayes, Fillery.	
Oldham: McDonnell, Edwards, Ryan, Keegan, Firm, Hollokin, Wylde, Heaton, Palmer, McDonough, Atkinson.	

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, April 24th

B'mingham v Swansea

PAST results count for very little in this clash as Swansea City are quite a different proposition these days than they have ever been in the club's history. They are really enjoying their first season among the game's elite and will be looking to complete their first-ever League double over Birmingham City, having already beaten them 1-0 at The Vetch Field.

Such a victory would more than make amends for some previous thrashings. The Swans have suffered at St. Andrews — 5-0 in 1950-51 and 6-0 in 1953-54 when Peter Murphy got a hat-trick. However, Swansea have had a previous success on this ground for they won there 4-1 in 1952-53.

Everton v Arsenal

THE question to be answered in this game on Saturday is whether Arsenal have really broken the Goodison Park jinx which hung over them for such a long spell. After a run of 20 League visits to this ground without a win, the Gunners have collected maximum points in each of their last two First Division games on this ground — 2-1 last season and 1-0 the season before.

Man. City v Ipswich

MANCHESTER CITY have only beaten Ipswich Town once in their last seven League meetings. That was 2-1 at Maine Road a couple of seasons ago. Last season this game resulted in a draw (1-1), but earlier in this campaign Ipswich won 2-0 at Portman Road where City's record has been a dismal one.

Nottm Forest v A. Villa

VILLA make their 40th League visit to the City Ground on Saturday and with a 3-1 victory over Forest already in the bag they may have fond hopes of completing their first double over Forest since their promotion-winning campaign of 1974-75.

Forest, of course, will have other ideas and will gain confidence from the fact that they have beaten Villa in three of their last four League visits and drawn the other — 2-2 last season.

Soton v Liverpool

EARLIER this season Saints shocked Liverpool with a 1-0 win at Anfield, Steve Moran snatching the winner with only three minutes to spare. If they can complete the double on Saturday it will only be the second time in the 14 seasons these two clubs have met in the League. The other season was the first in which they met — in 1960-61 when Saints won 1-0 at Anfield and 4-1 at The Dell.

In the three seasons these two sides have played at The Dell since Southampton were promoted, Liverpool have drawn twice and lost once. Indeed, that Anfield defeat earlier this season was the first time Liverpool had failed to find the net in a run of eight League games against Southampton.

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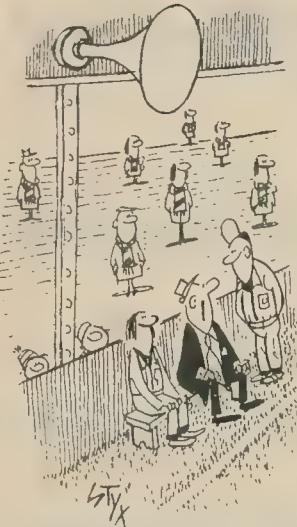
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FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Tell Fred to put on that recording of the Wembley roar."



"Police protection. He's not too popular with the fans."



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Third and Fourth Round-Up

SCRAMBLE AT THE TOP

LIFE suddenly looks rosier for Colin Murphy as his Lincoln City side make a spirited challenge for promotion from the Third Division.

Remember Murphy? He's the quiet man who suffered the humiliation of being sacked by Derby while he was actually giving them a team talk!

Derby, showing no regard for his feelings, decided Murphy was not the man for the job — and handed it to Tommy Docherty on the day of an important match.

Murphy could have been forgiven for turning his back on the game that had given him such a savage kick in the teeth and earning a living in a more civilised business.

But he did not. He joined Notts County as assistant to Jimmy Sirrel, then took over unfashionable Lincoln a couple of years ago.

And he has done so well that Imps fans are now forgetting all about Graham Taylor, their former boss who was worshipped at Sincil Bank.

Achieved

Lincoln have played more games than most of the others, so their promotion chances are only 50-50. But whatever happens in the rest of the season Murphy deserves a medal for what he has achieved.

So does Maurice Evans at Reading. He has steered his team into the reckoning with a brand of attacking football that made them the highest scorers in the Division.

But they, too, have played more games than the rest and it begins to look as though they will miss out on one of the three coveted promotion places.

Not so Fulham, whose manager, Malcolm Macdonald, seems set to celebrate his first full season in charge by taking them into the Second Division.

Supermac's team play the way he used to — in a carefree, swash-buckling style that is bringing the fans back to Craven Cottage.

Before he took over, the Rugby League at Fulham was keeping the soccer club in business — or so it was claimed. Now the position seems to have been well and truly reversed.

And Fulham will need promotion to keep leading scorer Gordon



Manager Colin Murphy (right) and physio Bert Loxley have plenty to smile about at Lincoln.

Davies at the club.

He wants to play for Wales in the next World Cup and claims Third Division football is not helping his chances of doing that. The way Fulham are going it seems he will have little to worry about in a few weeks time.

Carlisle, Chesterfield and Burnley are maintaining their bids

for better things and it seems the promotion scramble will be fought out by these four.

But don't rule out Oxford, going well under new manager Jim Smith and with games in hand on the others.

The Third Division lead has changed hands so many times and the picture is so confused that

anything can still happen in the final, exciting weeks.

In the Fourth Division things are much clearer. Four teams have broken away at the top and it is going to take something pretty dramatic to drag anyone else into the race.

It's looking odds-on a Yorkshire double here, with Bradford City and Sheffield United cutting out the pace — as they have done for most of the season.

United recently announced plans for an ambitious complex at their Bramall Lane ground that will be the envy of football.

On the field Ian Porterfield has got things right and United's gates are the envy of many in higher spheres.

A midweek game against Bradford last month pulled in a staggering 24,593 and Porterfield's team are giving them full value for money.

Certain

The same can be said of Bradford, where former England centre-half Roy McFarland seems certain to cap his first season as a manager by winning promotion.

So does another ex-England number five — Larry Lloyd, at Wigan. He has moulded the League's newest club into a formidable combination.

And with four to go up, there seems nothing to stop Peterborough making sure of joining them. They are the other team of the quartet who have opened an enormous gap on the rest.

Northampton surged spectacularly away from the bottom with a string of impressive results under new boss Clive Walker and must now fancy their chances of avoiding an application for re-election.

But the 'old faithful' are down there again and familiar names like Crewe, Rochdale and Halifax seem certain to have to go cap in hand and beg for another chance at the League meeting in June.

BOOMING BLADES



Fourth Division pacesetters Sheffield United and Wigan pulled in more than 22,000 at Bramall Lane last month.

YOU ARE THE REF

compiled by Keith Hackett



As a high ball drops into the penalty area a defending player shouts out: "My ball — leave it." Do you:

- (a) award a penalty,
- (b) award an indirect free-kick, or
- (c) allow play to continue?



2

When a linesman stands with his right arm across his chest is he signalling:

- (a) a penalty,
- (b) that time has expired, or
- (c) an indirect free-kick?

3

A manager of one of the team shouts instructions to his players from the sideline. Should you:

- (a) caution him, or
- (b) ignore him?



MATCH POINT

I've taken charge of a number of very important games in recent weeks and I'd just like to say what a marvellous job the police have done in controlling the crowds. The situation both inside and outside the ground is always potentially explosive, but the police have done marvellously in ensuring there has been no trouble between rival fans. I don't know how many fans are aware of this, but before the game I often talk with the officer in charge in case of any serious disturbances. Each force have their own plans should there be a crowd invasion, but I'm happy to report I've never had to put these plans into operation at any game I've refereed. Long may it continue.

ANSWERS

1. Award an indirect free-kick (b). Linesman is indicating that the time has not to deliberate an opponent. 2. The (a). 3. Caution the manager if the player must pull a name in order to express (b).

STEVE HAPPY TO EAT HIS WORDS

STEVE Wicks believes the advantage of being managed by Terry Venables more than compensates for any difficulty of adapting to the club's synthetic pitch.

Wicks' return to Loftus Road only minutes before this season's transfer deadline at the end of March was one of the most surprising of the season.

Not surprising in the way it happened — it had been an open secret for weeks, and Rangers' knowledge of Crystal Palace's cash problems and need to sell meant a last-minute deal with a knockdown price was always likely.

But Wicks had made the journey across London in the opposite direction last summer, saying: "I'm happy to come here — and get away from that plastic pitch."

The big central defender's dislike of the new £350,000 Omniturf surface had been a major factor in his decision to leave Q.P.R. in a £750,000 deal.

But now he has returned, he feels the advantage of rejoining go-ahead Rangers and playing under Venables far outweighs any initial problems of adapting to the pitch.

"I know what I said at the time. I felt it wasn't for me and so I thought the best thing was to go. I am still not sure it is a pitch for defenders, but I intend to get used to it.

"The great thing is, I'm happy to come back here and join up with Terry once again. I feel he's a great guy to play under and I'm sure he will help me achieve my ambition — playing First Division football again.

"That is what I really want and I believe my chances of doing so have been increased by rejoining Rangers."

Disappointed

Life was pretty traumatic for Wicks at Palace. He joined in a big money deal, injured his back early in the season and was out for almost three months. He was disappointed, frustrated at the lack of football — and then Palace's boardroom squabbles burst into the open.

But he says: "I don't regret joining them. I felt it was the correct decision at the time and I still do."

But what of Rangers? Wicks says: "I hope I can stiffen the defence. If I can, all our ambitions will be rewarded because it is clear the side has lost ground in its away matches this season.

"The past? Well, you make decisions and stick by them. But I cannot deny I am pleased to be back at Rangers. I want to get to the First Division. In fact, I'm desperate to play there. I reckon it is now only a matter of time before I do so because of the quality of



players at the club.

"I believe we can still make it this season. But if we don't, we should next year and if I have to wait another year, so be it. At least I know that with Terry Venables he will get me there in the end."

Wicks' defensive abilities could have made him a leading candidate for Spain had he left Rangers for a First Division club last summer.

Undoubtedly, his decision to join struggling Palace cost him any chance in that direction and now he must hope Rangers will become a First Division side as quickly as possible.

Having reached the F.A. Cup Final, Rangers may well stick by Glenn Roeder and Bob Hazell for the rest of the season. But Cup-tied Wicks knows that if he can recapture his best form, there is no way that Venables, and perhaps ultimately England, can afford to do without his defensive services.

SCOTLAND will be facing a Maradona-inspired Soviet Union in Spain.

Apparently, USSR boss Konstantin Beskov is a big fan of Diego almost to the point of being obsessed by the Argentine.

It's said that every instruction he gives his players is likened to Maradona. It's now reached the stage that when Beskov says: "You must do it . . ." he's interrupted by a player saying: "We know — the way Maradona does it."



Honduras' hopes hit

HONDURAS' hopes of springing a World Cup surprise against Northern Ireland, Spain and Yugoslavia took a severe knock when their F.A. failed to reach an agreement with Real Valladolid for the release of 23-year-old sweeper Gilberto (above) — possibly the best footballer Honduras has ever produced.

Gilberto (full name Gilberto Jerónimo Yearwood) has been in Spain since starring in the Honduras Youth Team in the 1977 World Championship in Tunisia and has established himself as a star performer.

Honduras manager Chelato was counting on Gilberto to boost his World Cup chances, but negotiations with Valladolid have broken down after the Spaniards insisted on a £600,000 insurance policy and cash compensation totalling £50,000.

The Honduras, who've already had to borrow £40,000 from FIFA to finance their World Cup preparations, simply can't raise the cash, and poor Gilberto, whose ambition is to sign for an English First Division club, is heartbroken.

'No British glory' says MARADONA

ACCORDING to Diego Maradona, neither Scotland nor Northern Ireland will qualify for the second phase of the World Cup Finals.

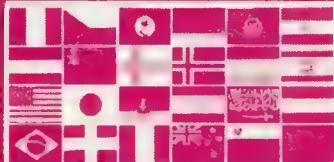
The Argentine superstar predicts that West Germany will eliminate England in the second phase, and that Belgium will knock out Brazil (wishful thinking, maybe!).

So in the Semi-Finals, Argentina would meet Belgium while hosts Spain would take on West Germany.

Maradona reckons Argentina will beat West Germany 2-0 in the Final.

FRANCE have already renewed the contract of team manager Michel Hidalgo until after the 1984 European Championship Finals, which will be staged in France.

WORLD WIDE



Compiled by CHRIS DAVIES

This week turns the spotlight on the British teams' World Cup opponents

'ENGLAND WON'T QUALIFY'

KUWAIT BOSS

MAGINE SHOOT is interviewing Carlos Alberto Parreira, boss of England's World Cup rivals Kuwait.

He's not likely to tell us that England are a load of rubbish, is he?

You can call it public relations discretion or just common politeness.

So sometimes it's interesting to see what is being said to reporters from other countries, and some of Carlos Alberto's comments recently published by leading French magazine *France Football* are a case in point. Here are a few extracts:

"In terms of ball skills, France are technically superior to the other three teams in Group Four. I don't have much confidence in England after the way they lost to Switzerland and Norway in their qualifying matches with some very mediocre football."

"France and Czechoslovakia are without doubt the favourites to qualify."

"Even so, it's a pretty 'hot' group and I think everybody will take points from everybody else. The important thing is to stay cool until the very last minute."

'Gain'

"We are going to be a danger to everyone because we have absolutely nothing to lose and everything to gain."

"We've already performed our 'miracle' by qualifying. So while the French, the Czechs and the English are fighting away with daggers drawn and inhibited by the fear of losing, we'll be relaxed enough to play our natural game."

"The basis of our success has been a sound defence, and the ability to get defenders and midfielders back into covering positions as soon as we lose possession."

"We play best when the other team is prepared to press forward, because our forwards are fast, direct and clinical finishers. This is why we prefer the counter-attacking game."

"I haven't got a tremendous number of great players to choose from, so my aim has been to mould a really solid team with the right blend of youth and experience."

"What I can't understand is how New Zealand have qualified for the Finals. They're athletic but their football is rudimentary."

"We got a win and a draw against them, and I just can't understand how a plodding

WITH England possibly going to call on Tony Woodcock, they are among the 20 World Cup qualifiers who will have foreign-based players in their squads.

They even include Czechoslovakia and Poland from Eastern Europe.

The only four countries who have not played a 'foreigner' and seem unlikely to do so are: Italy, Russia, Spain and Kuwait.

Cash bonanza for France

REMEMBERING the discussions which marred France's participation in the 1978 World Cup Finals, the French authorities have been at great pains to sort out the commercial side of this year's Finals well before the squad leaves for Spain.

They've worked out a system whereby 42 per cent of any profit made by the Federation will be shared among the players — plus the cash obtained from a sports equipment manufacturer.

Without going into all the details, even if France lose all three of their first phase matches, the players are likely to pick up at least £18,200 a head.

And if France were to reach the Semi-Finals, the squad could count on around £43,000 per man.

Second thoughts

THE Brazilians have run into an unexpected hitch in their World Cup planning.

They've been assuming they'll qualify for the second phase of the tournament, and have booked accommodation near Barcelona. But they'd planned to train in the Nova Creu Alta — the ground of Second Division Sabadell.

The Brazilians are now having second thoughts as Sabadell have demanded £60,000 'rental' for the nine training sessions scheduled.

PANENKA PREPARES

ENGLAND beware! Czechoslovakia's free-kick expert Antonin Panenka is practising more than ever his set-piece movements.

Panenka is recognised as just about the deadliest free-kick and penalty specialist in the world.

Now playing in Austria for Rapid Vienna, Panenka (below) practises each day after training.

A fence, six feet high and 15 feet long representing a defensive wall, is placed about eight feet from the edge of the penalty box at various places.

Panenka then 'bends' the ball around or over the wall into the goal. He says: "Just as a piano virtuoso needs constant practice to keep his fingers supple, I need to practise my free-kicks."

"It's immediately noticeable even if I miss out a couple of days."



SPAIN'S national team manager Pepe Santamaría must be praying that goalkeeper Luis Arconada isn't injured before or during the World Cup. His number two 'keeper, Jose Manuel Sempere, has been dropped by Valencia after a few questionable performances. And the number three 'keeper, Javier Urrutiochea, hasn't been able to make the Barcelona first team all season!

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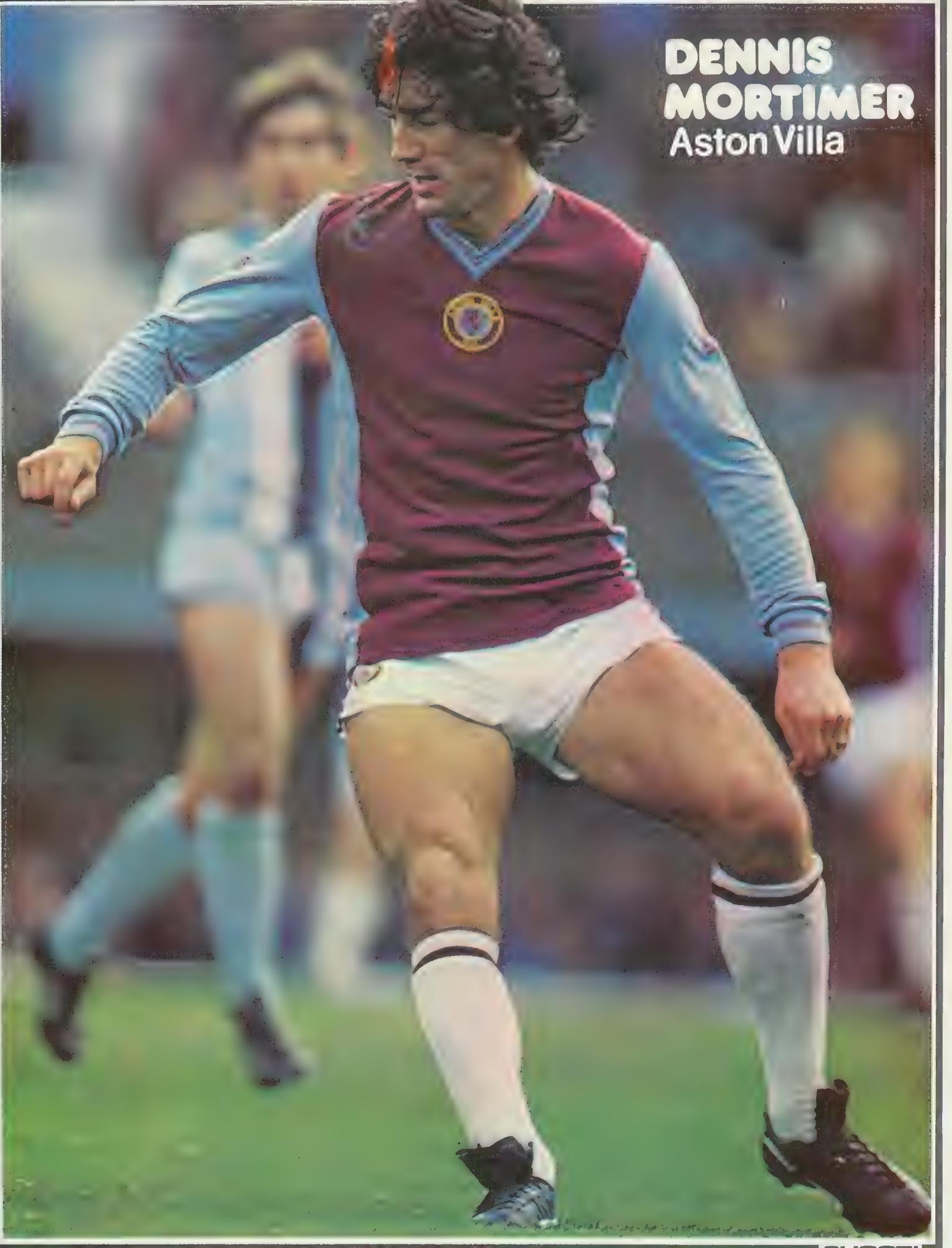
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TAKE A BREAK IT'S QUIZ TIME

SEMI-FINALS

The English and Scottish F.A. Cup Semi-Finals were played recently. Can you answer the following questions about the ties?

1. Tottenham won through to Wembley when they beat Leicester City 2-0 at Villa Park. Ian Wilson scored an own-goal . . . was it the first or second goal?
2. The other Semi produced a shock when Second Division Queens Park Rangers beat West Bromwich Albion of the First 1-0. Was Clive Allen's goal scored in the first or second-half?
3. In Scotland, Aberdeen and St Mirren finished 1-1. Which club took the lead?
4. Rangers and Forfar, in the other Semi, finished 0-0, 1-1 or 2-2?

GROUNDS

1. Where will the 1981-82 European Cup-Winners' Cup Final be played?
2. (a) Meadow Lane, (b) Deepdale, (c) Muirton Park and (d) Boghead Park are grounds in England and Scotland. Which clubs play at these grounds?
3. They play in the Scottish Premier Division and are known as The Dark Blues. Their ground is Dens Park . . . who are they?
4. Where do (a) Gillingham, (b) Carlisle United, (c) Oxford United and (d) Swindon Town play their home Third Division games?
5. Between 1941 and 1949 Manchester United played their home games at which First Division ground?

ANSWERS:

INTERNATIONALS 1 Peru in 1980 2 Northern Ireland 3 Twce. 4 (a) Wales, (b) England, (c) Scotland, (d) Republic of Ireland.
GROUNDS 1 Nou Camp, Barcelona 2 (a) Stadium, (b) True. 3 True. 4 False — he began with 1974. 5 True. 6 True. 7 False — he was captain in 1980. 8 True. 9 False — they have appeared in two. 10 Wrong it does not finish ining numbers up. 11 True. 12 False — he was captain in 1980. 13 True. 14 False — he began with 1974. 15 True. 16 True. 17 False — he began with 1974. 18 True. 19 False — he was captain in 1980. 20 True. 21 True. 22 False — they have appeared in two. 23 True. 24 True. 25 True. 26 True. 27 True. 28 True. 29 True. 30 True.

COMPUTER PUZZLE 1 Second 2 Second 3 Able 4.0-0. 5 Queen's Park Rangers 4.1979. 6 Spain 3.1970. 7 Chelsea 2.1970. 8 Liverpool 1.0-0. 9 SEMI-FINALS 1 Second 2 Second 3 Able 4.0-0. 5 Queen's Park Rangers 4.1979. 6 Spain 3.1970. 7 Chelsea 2.1970. 8 Liverpool 1.0-0. 9



TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Scottish Premier Division club Morton have never appeared in the Scottish Cup Final.
2. Doncaster manager Billy Bremner skippered Scotland in the 1978 World Cup Finals in Argentina.
3. Swansea's Dai Davies made his international
4. Aston Villa's Peter Withe (left) began his League career with Fourth Division Stockport.
5. Mickey Thomas has played for Wrexham, Manchester United and Brighton.

COMPUTER PUZZLE

John Hollins

Programme this star player by plugging the gaps in his career.

1. He began his League career with —
2. Hollins helped his club to win the — F.A. Cup Final.
3. After 436 League games he was transferred to —
4. In July, —, Arsenal signed for him around £40,000.
5. His one full appearance for England was against — in 1967.

Computer performance rating: 5 Superb; 4 Excellent; 3 Good.

INTERNATIONALS

1. Celtic's Roy Aitken made his full Scotland debut against Poland, Peru or Portugal in September, 1979, 1980 or 1981?
2. Southampton defender Chris Nicholl (below, dark shirt) is an international player for which country?
3. How many times has Ipswich Town's Eric Gates played for the full England side?
4. (a) Ian Walsh (Swansea), (b) Gerry Francis (Coventry City), (c) Jim Stewart (Rangers) and (d) Tony Greathouse (Brighton) are internationals for which countries?



ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS:— (1) Bay, (3) Mabbott, (7) Albiston, (12) Era, (13) Wood, (14) Yellow, (16) Not, (19) Det, (21) Gidman, (23) Even, (24) Ice, (25) Steggles, (27) Fashanu, (30) Bid, DOWN:— (1) Bob, (2) You, (4) Abbey, (5) Two, (6) Ward, (8) Tulsa, (9) News, (10) Van, (11) Howe, (15) Eddie, (17) Owen, (18) Ages, (20) Rix, (22) Nylon, (23) Elst, (26) Tea, (28) Sub, (29) And.

'M throwing my hat into the ring when the Football Association sit down to choose a successor to Ron Greenwood, England's manager.

It is a job I would love to do — and believe I could do well. The thought of sifting through a list of the finest players in the land before choosing my select 11 is a privilege reserved only for a special few.

A very special few, for there have only been four England bosses since the last War, Walter Winterbottom, Alf Ramsey, now Sir, for his magnificent achievement in plotting England's 1966 World Cup success, Don Revie and Ron Greenwood.

Before soccer experts reach for their pens, I should add that Joe Mercer, genial and successful boss of Manchester City a decade ago, acted successfully as caretaker-manager of the national side before Ron.

In saying this I do not wish to give the impression I want to leave Manchester City. My job at Maine Road is to steer the club to as much success as we can possibly achieve and I won't abandon that pledge I made on arrival.

Favourite

Now let me put my cards firmly on the table. My hat's in the ring — but my favourite to get the job is Ipswich's Bobby Robson. They're playing against us this Saturday (April 24) and I'm hoping City can avenge the 2-0 defeat we suffered in November at Portman Road.

Bobby has done a marvellous job on limited resources and he seems to fit the pattern recommended by Ron Greenwood in announcing that he will retire after the World Cup.

But Bobby will be chased all the way to the England manager's door

at F.A. headquarters by a select bunch, including Brian Clough and Jackie Charlton.

My admiration for both of them is immense. It might sound double Dutch but I haven't wept too much for Cloughie in a disappointing season for Nottingham Forest, the European Cup winners in 1979 and 1980.

A taste of the bad times will not harm his chances. It proves that, like the rest of us, he's human. I harbour this fear that a slight "old school tie" approach to the task of appointing a new manager could count against him, but I'm not convinced that the right candidate has to be 100 per cent perfect.

Jack Charlton has to be taken seriously also. Don't rule him out because he runs a Second Division club. Cloughie and the Sheffield Wednesday manager have one thing in common — they always make things better. They might inherit a sinking outfit, but they always lift their clubs to a higher plateau.

The England job is something I only consider when people ask me whether I would like the chance. At the moment I'm working hard to revive Manchester City's fortunes.

I told my staff and players that this would be a difficult season, and so it has proved to be. Terry Venables is in much the same position at Queens Park Rangers as I was last season after joining City.

I wouldn't mind betting that Terry would prefer to get promotion than be in the F.A. Cup Final. Wembley was great for us but much work had

to be done for us to achieve our ultimate, the First Division title.

I'm hoping we'll scrape into Europe on account of our League position. I'd have settled for a place in the top five and I'm hoping we'll still get there, but our title hopes have gone.

Injuries and suspensions have probably cost us a better position. My £1 million gem Trevor Francis missed 14 of our first 35 games this season — and was then suspended for stupidly losing his temper against Everton.

When will players realise that such unruly behaviour can cost a club dearly? Trevor, one of the best behaved pros in the game, will never make the same mistake — but the fact is, he did it!

Another factor is that one or two players have not produced the goods. Asa Hartford concerns me

'I'D LOVE THE ENGLAND JOB'

**JOHN BOND
WRITES
EXCLUSIVELY
FOR SHOOT!**



Ipswich's Bobby Robson (above) is favourite to land the England manager's job. Asa Hartford (above, right) has angered John Bond with some poor displays.



deeply. He's got everything but he hasn't always produced. How can we expect to go to Spain with Scotland?

I publicly rebuked him for his display in our 1-0 defeat against West Ham at home in an effort to chivvy him into greater action. Just because you are a senior pro doesn't mean you don't need a kick up the backside occasionally. I remember having to do it with Ted MacDougall, one of the best strikers I've ever had in my days at Bournemouth and Norwich.

Terrible

I can assure you there were a few harsh words spoken after our disastrous Easter performances, when we lost 5-0 at home to Liverpool and 4-1 at struggling Wolves. We were terrible.

Those results have probably cost us European soccer next season, and there's no way I will tolerate a repeat from any City team of which I am manager.

But my problems are nothing compared with the poor players who will be put out of work at the end of the season. Most First and Second Division clubs will prune their squads to 20-22. City have 21, so we won't have problems, but I see a lot of players joining the dole this summer as England seek glory in Spain.

Hopefully, soccer's reached its lowest ebb this season — and life will get better from now on.

John Bond



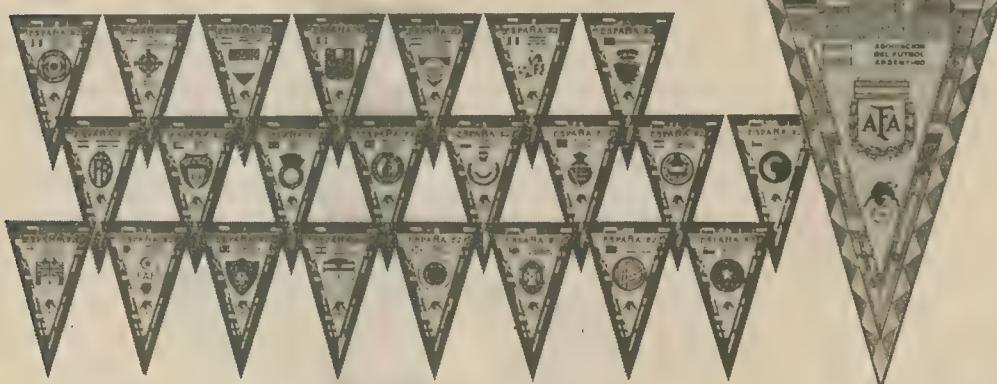
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BURTON COMPETITION RESULT

In our Burton Competition readers were invited to match each of 11 featured players to the position on the football field, either striker, midfielder or defender.

Having considered all entries, the judges decided that the three nearest correct entries, with age taken into account, were sent by A. Scotson, Leeds; Anne Tibbets, Penicuik and Andrew Yuill, Diss. Each wins a first prize of a complete team kit of 12 shirts, socks, shorts and tracksuits plus team sports bag, first aid kit and team picture.

There were also 50 runners-up who each win a T-shirt. They are:

John Archbold, Alnwick. David Bannerton, Co. Dublin. Aidan Booth, Co. Laois. Rodney Burke, Wymondham. Steven Caunce, Burscough. Paul Chadwick, Salford. Fraser Confrey, Milton. Eamonn Connolly, Newry. Graeme Davidson, Wallyford. Stan Delaney, Falkland. Jon Farley, Stanford le Hope. Lee Fordham, Swansea. David Garritt, Doncaster. Mark Gilroy, Glasgow. Lee Goodwin, Inverurie. Darren Green, Chesterfield. Robert Gunby, Plymouth. Rory Harmon, Co. Louth. Paul Harris, Sutton-in-Ashfield. Megan Heathershaw, Paignton. Philip Hickmott, Herne Bay. Mark Higham, Bolton. John Hurn, Edgware. Peter Jeffrey, Sheppen. Eton Maidment, Dereham. Alistair McDonald, Kilsyth. Nicholas Meakin, Coalville. John Miller, Skelmersdale. Ann Morrissey, Co. Cork. Patrick Murphy, Barnsley. David O'Connell, Co. Cork. Emma Patterson, Langport. Tony Peacock, Sandy. Shaun Piercy, Chester. Richard Quinn, Co. Westmeath. Andrew Rhodes, Kidderminster. Priya Setiadi, London. Gregory Simons, London. Ian Sinclair, Finchampstead. Simon Skinner, Harold Hill. Paul Sparshott, Southampton. Alistair Steven, Bramcote. Calum Swankie, Angus. David Syron, Gateshead. Neil Taylor, Manchester. Ian Watkins, Biggin Hill. Gary Waugh, Belfast. Scott White, Fife. Ian Wicks, Dagenham. David Wright, Alton.

150 OFF

THE news that 1981/82 looks like being the worst-ever for sendings-off both surprised and disappointed me. Apparently, we're on target for 150 dismissals, which would be 21 more than the previous worst in 1979/80.

I was amazed because in the games I've played in this season

League Cup tie when Martin Jol and Tony Galvin were sent-off. I thought they were unlucky, especially Galvin, who made more of a gesture by swinging his arm at Jol rather than making a concerted effort to thump the Dutchman who'd pulled him back.

Maybe players tend to be more sympathetic in such instances. I must be honest and say players tend



"Tottenham's Tony Galvin was unlucky to be sent-off against West Brom in the League Cup."

but the game's no dirtier'

there hasn't been a sending-off and no match has even threatened to get out of hand.

The figures can't lie, though, and there must be a reason why so many players are being ordered off.

I thought referees were becoming more open-minded, especially in talking to players. The best refs are those who give as good as they get in this respect, replying to a criticism with: "You're not having such a good game yourself."

I'd be interested to know how many of the sendings-off have been for two bookable offences rather than just one really bad tackle.

Shock

It seems as if there is pressure 'from above' for referees to clamp down, but it still comes as a shock to know 1981/82 could be known as the dirtiest ever.

The game's in a bad enough state without having those sort of gloomy statistics thrown around.

One reason why I thought cautions and dismissals would take a downward trend was the abolition of the yellow and red cards.

I'm sure I speak for most professionals when I say I was happy to see referees go back to the famous black book.

The cards were to easy to whip out and show. With a book, the ref has a few more seconds to assess the situation and think over things ... and perhaps realise the remark or tackle wasn't as bad as it seemed immediately.

I'd say both players and referees are to blame for the possible record dismissals.

From what I've seen of other games, players have been unfortunate to be in trouble.

I was at the West Brom/Spurs

to criticise referees rather than themselves. For instance, the game could be 0-0 and someone would miss a gift of an open goal.

His team-mates would say nothing afterwards, but if the player had 'scored' and had the goal been disallowed for some dubious off-side the ref's name would be mud!

I think our officials are over-criticised. From my experience I'd say our refs are just about the best in the world.

There is still room for players and referees to become closer ... to understand each other's problems.

SENDINGS-OFF

Season	Lge	FA	Lge Total
	Cup	Cup	
1977-78	98	13	12 123
1978-79	108	8	8 124
1979-80	111	12	6 129
1980-81	110	4	10 124
1981-82 (so far)	106	5	20 131



"Remi Moses is stopped by Paul Power of Manchester City, but there were no violent tackles in the derby game at Maine Road."



BRYAN ROBSON
Writes for you

Maybe then the number of cautions and sendings-off would go down.

I realise our officials all have other jobs, but if they could go along to their local clubs and just referee a five-a-side game once a week it would help them to see players in another light.

Players' humour can often be cutting. It isn't meant to be nasty ... just that in the heat of the moment things are said which aren't necessarily meant. If referees could see players more often, not just in League games, it could bridge the gap.

I've only been cautioned once this season, which looks like being a personal best for me in disciplinary terms. I usually end a season with around 16 points, but so far

I've only been booked once — during my debut at Spurs, when Tony Galvin pushed the ball past me and my tackle was possibly a split-second late. I was fooled when he toe-poked the ball away.

I've never been sent-off and although I'm a competitive sort of player, I've learnt to read situations and don't dive in recklessly.

Violent

I'll never agree the game is becoming more violent. I've not seen a violent tackle in any game I've been involved in this season. Perhaps a large percentage of dismissals are for a second niggly foul when the player's already been booked.

Referees are sharper these days and don't miss much.

This Saturday we travel to Brighton, who have proved to be one of the most difficult teams in Division One to beat.

They have a strong defence, a busy midfield and in attack Andy Ritchie seems to have made a habit of scoring against his old club.

I'm looking forward to a close game watched by a bumper crowd.

United have slipped in the title race in recent games, so it's vital that we take all three points this Saturday.

We've recently dropped points to Coventry, Sunderland and Leeds and, with the greatest respect for those clubs, that's hardly Championship form. We've got to take maximum points from struggling clubs if we're to win the League.

Bryan Robson

AS his manager was once the best centre-half in the world, and collected a World Cup winner's medal during a magnificent career, it is hardly surprising that Mark Smith has his eyes on the England number five shirt.

Smith is currently exhibiting impressive shades of Jack Charlton as Sheffield Wednesday enter the final straight of their race for promotion.

Hillsborough headlines are usually about the exploits of Terry Curran, Gary Megson or Garry Bannister. But Smith's solid and steady displays at the heart of a typical Charlton-built defence have already established him as a success in the England Under-21 team.

'Influence'

"I have only had two and a half years in the professional game," says Smith, "but I have learned a lot in that time and the boss has been a big influence."

"He is always pulling me to one side and giving me tips and pieces of advice. And when you remember what he achieved as a centre-half, such advice is priceless."

Sheffield-born Smith joined Wednesday as an apprentice and turned professional in January, 1978. Two League appearances, followed by 20 the next season, gave him the grounding to claim a

regular first team place.

"We have pace and flair up front," says Smith. "but we are also very well organised at the back. Jack Charlton is a brilliant coach. He analyses everything and shows us where we go wrong after every game."

"He is a difficult man to please, but you can see the result of his work in our League placing. We did not concede a goal in our first four

SMITH'S made his MARK

games, and despite a loss of form at home, have fought our way back into the promotion battle."

"Promotion is the most important thing for us. I know I must play in the First Division if I am to achieve my ultimate ambition, to play for England in the 1986 World Cup. And this club belongs in the top Division."

"We are thinking as a First Division club and I believe we can back that up by the time we reach the end of the season."

Smith is ambitious . . . and totally honest. "I am not the

fastest player in the world and that first ten to 15 yards is so important. But I am aware of the dangers when facing sharp forwards so I tend to drop off a few yards and give myself time to anticipate the next move."

"I think I have done reasonably well in my Under-21 games and to be honest I did not find it much different at that level. So now I am working hard for promotion . . . and keeping an ear open for more of the boss' tips."



Smith (stripes) clears from Derby County's Dave Swindlehurst.

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LEAGUE
CHAMPIONSHIP BUT...

Anderson's still aiming for Forest glory

AT the beginning of the year Nottingham Forest's Viv Anderson had two ambitions.

He has failed to realise one of them but has achieved the other.

Says Viv: "My ambitions were to be in a winning side in an F.A. Cup Final and to regain a place in the England team.

"Well, I didn't get to Wembley with Forest this season, though I did turn out for my country against Northern Ireland in February."

While Nottingham Forest's lack of success in the F.A. Cup has been a disappointment to Anderson, he confesses that it has made him keener than ever to help his club back into European competitions.

"Although we won't win the title we still have the chance to gain a spot among the leaders and return to Europe in 1982-83.

"Switching on the television and watching games on the Continent only makes me realise how much I'm missing by Forest being out of Europe this season.

"In recent years I've grown accustomed to playing against Continental teams — I enjoy competing against them."

Illness

Forest's recent search for the right blend in their team rebuilding programme, plus the illness of their manager Brian Clough, are reasons given by Anderson for setbacks suffered by the club in past months.

"We've been forced into making more changes than most of our chief rivals and some of the players we've bought have not been a success.

"But it's still been a pleasure to be able to assist promising young defenders such as Bryn Gunn and Stuart Gray as much as I can.

"Of course, we were unsettled when Brian Clough was indisposed. We were always wondering what would happen next."

Has the inability of some players to settle in at the City Ground been due to failure to adapt to the Nottingham Forest style?

"We haven't any particular style," says Viv. "Because we are

Anderson is in the thick of the action for England against Northern Ireland at Wembley in February.



Forest players, our boss expects us to know the game. We don't have overlong tactical talks — we get out there and see what comes out in the wash."

For Anderson the summer months will be a red-letter period if he is honoured again by being chosen for the England squad, this time for the World Cup in Spain.

"International matches are always special. And one game which will live in my memory as having an atmosphere all of its own was the England-Scotland meeting at Wembley last year.

"I just can't describe exactly what it's like to play in a match like this — all I can say is that there is nothing quite like it. It is unique.

"Those Scottish fans are astonishing. Their fervour obviously lifts their team, and for the sake of those supporters, I think the British Championship should be preserved.

"As someone who is always proud to pull on an England shirt, I can easily understand how great a Scot feels at representing his country in front of a Scottish crowd."

Anderson is confident that Forest will recapture the form that has gained them the Division One title, the European Cup and the League Cup.

"We'll be back among the trophies with another winning side. We like being in the thick of things, and have no intention of being written off yet."





Stars playing vital roles in their clubs'

BRAZIL'S BLITZ has kept Ipswich buzzing

ALAN Brazil, the player whose goals in recent weeks have kept Ipswich Town's Championship challenge alive at a time when the club have been cruelly ravaged by injuries, has pledged that as far as he's concerned there will be no let-up for the hard-pressed First Division defences.

His incredible five-goal blast against fellow Championship-chasers Southampton was just one of a string of superb performances from the Scot this season.

"While we've had a terrible run of injuries to key players, which has obviously affected our performance as a team, my own confidence has grown and grown," says Brazil.

'Better'

"I'm convinced that right now I'm playing better than at any time in my career. In fact, these days I expect to score every time I get an opening."

And Alan knows that every time he does hit the back of the net for Ipswich, he registers another reminder to Scotland boss Jock Stein that his should be one of the names that finally end up on Stein's squad sheet for this summer's World Cup Finals in Spain.

Brazil has, in fact, already played for Scotland on Spanish soil this year — the 3-0 defeat in Valencia in a World Cup warm-up game during February.

"That was my first full game for Scotland," recalled Brazil. "But in all honesty, I think the final scoreline flattered the Spaniards.

"Even so, I wasn't particularly



Alan Brazil (above, dark shirt) puts the Southampton defence under more pressure during Ipswich's 5-2 win at Portman Road this season. The Scotland striker had a field day by scoring all five goals.

happy with my own performance. I know I can do a lot better than that.

"So if I'm going to earn the chance to prove it in the remaining build-up games, I've got to keep sticking the goals away."

Alan has no illusions about just how stiff the competition for places up front for Scotland will be, either.

"When you look around at the sort of players Mr. Stein has available, the opposition is pretty formidable," he points out.

"Apart from Kenny Dalglish and Joe Jordan, there's Steve Archibald, Andy Gray and Paul Sturrock. So I've certainly got to earn my place."

One thing is clear though, if the selection was left to his club man-

ager, Bobby Robson, Brazil's place would already be assured.

"There's no way Alan can be ignored if he continues to produce the brilliant things we have seen from him this season," says Robson.

"He's progressed out of all recognition over the past 12 months. Alan's the most outstanding player in the country right now in his position. And what's more, he gets better with every game."

"When he first came to us he was a frail little lad who was so easily knocked off the ball. Now he's full of confidence, has bags of skill and aggression, and his

"Middlesbrough is looked upon as somewhat of a soccer outpost, content simply to sell, and survive if they can.

DAVID Armstrong knows he turned his own soccer world on its head when he joined Southampton in a £600,000 deal last summer.

Instead of being engaged in a bitter struggle for First Division survival, which would have been the case had he stayed with Middlesbrough, Armstrong is currently a key figure as Saints strike out at the other end of the table, in search of their first-ever League Championship.

"It's ironic really, but Southampton and Middlesbrough are clubs similar in size — yet in outlook they are worlds apart," says David.

"Saints are willing to buy top players, who are in turn, keen to come to this part of the world, because the club has shown itself to be ambitious.

"Obviously, the boss has a tremendous influence on the Southampton image.

"He's a terrific talker, who over the years has managed to persuade some first class internationals to join him. The signing of Kevin Keegan was the master stroke.

"I know it owed much to the



It took David Armstrong time to settle down at Southampton alongside Mike Channon (above) and Kevin Keegan (right).

boss' persuasive tongue to get me to uproot and travel almost the length of the country from my family and friends, when a club in the North or Midlands might have looked more attractive.

"That, and the feeling that when you played for Southampton, you actually enjoyed your football. That's the impression I always got from this club anyway, and since I arrived here, I know it's true.

"Footballers are no different from supporters. They like their teams to play open, entertaining football, with the greatest emphasis on attack. That's exactly what we're encouraged to do here.

"I firmly believe that is one of the big secrets behind our success this season. Another is that with five or

Championship challenges...



"Every morning after a game, you'll see all the lads pawing over the newspapers, pin-pointing the various moves up and down the table, trying to work out all the possible permutations."

But life at the top hasn't brought about the tense sort of pressure you might imagine, insists Armstrong. "It's more a feeling of genuine excitement that this really could turn out to be our year.

"I know people keep pointing out that the likes of Tottenham and Ipswich — who, along with Liverpool, I rate as our biggest threats — have games in hand over us.

'Prefer'

"But that doesn't worry us too much. After all, those games have got to be won. In all honesty, I'm sure they'd prefer to be in our position, with the points already in the bag."

David's also aware of the other question mark against the club — that it doesn't have the strength in depth that some of their rivals can boast.

"That's absolutely true," he agrees. "We don't have four or five experienced players waiting in the wings if and when injury should strike. But what we do have is a couple of tremendous youngsters who, when they've been called on,

TOPSY-TURVEY ARMSTRONG

reveals the 'Secrets of Saints' success'



six experienced internationals in the side, we've got players with the talent to change the course of a game almost single-handed."

Saints took over at the top of the First Division at the end of January, and threw down a challenge to the rest to catch them if they can. But although David admits that being on or around the top for much of the season has left him and his team-mates constantly looking over their shoulder, he believes it's something they can live with.

certainly haven't let the side down. And you can't ask for more than that."

Much has been made about Kevin Keegan's goalscoring exploits this season. The England skipper has already surpassed his best ever tally for a season, and Armstrong is confident he can follow in Keegan's footsteps.

"My best ever tally was 14 goals," says David. "With seven League games still to go, I'd already notched 12 goals, so naturally I'm very hopeful of topping that total."

Which isn't bad going, considering Armstrong revealed he was less than happy with his early season contribution to the team.

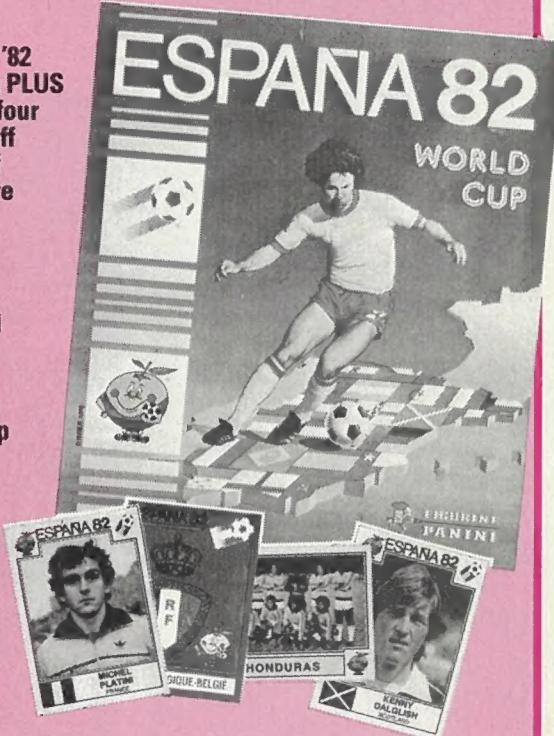
"Playing alongside the likes of Kevin, Bally and Mike Channon, I should have found settling in easy," he agrees.

"But I didn't. I suppose having spent 14 years with Middlesbrough, playing to a particular style and team-pattern, must have had something to do with it.

"I'm a lot happier now, though. And I'll be a happier still if, come May, we're running round The Dell with the League trophy."

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IN COLOUR . . .
RAY KENNEDY — This Is Your Life + Ross Jenkins (Watford) + Joe Hinnigan (Sunderland) + World Cup Star Juanito (Spain) + Super Focus on Southampton's new signing Keith Cassells.

The Scotland Hoodoo — are their stars jinxed?

AND DUNLOP Football Boots and places at Bobby Charlton's Soccer School to be won.

SHOOT names the youngsters who could be the Headline Makers of the future.

SHOOT — TOP for action . . . Top for value and the game's BIGGEST names. Don't bother with the rest stay with the best. SHOOT — it's a WINNER all the way!

Super Focus

RALPH MILNE DUNDEE UTD.

FULL NAME: Ralph Milne
BIRTHPLACE: Dundee
BIRTHDATE: May 13, 1961
HEIGHT: 5ft 8ins
WEIGHT: 11st 4lbs
MARRIED: No
CAR: Vauxhall Cavalier
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
JOB OR TRADE BEFORE TURNING PRO: None
NICKNAME: None
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Dundee Courier
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Diego Maradona
A PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: Maurice Malpas (Dundee Utd)
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Tottenham Hotspur
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Allan Clarke when with Leeds
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Running and athletics, although I enjoy most sports
OTHER SPORTS PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE: Bjorn Borg for his amazing achievements so young
YOUR BEST EVER ALL TIME XI: Zoff, Carlos Alberto, Beckenbauer, Passarella, Facchetti, Ardiles, Krol, Kempes, Cruyff, Pele, Maradona
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Beating Borussia Moenchengladbach 5-0 in the UEFA Cup and scoring the first goal
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing both the Scottish Cup Final and Scottish League Cup Final to Rangers
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Aberdeen

**BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN:**

Borussia Moenchengladbach's

FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: Steak and tea**MISCELLANEOUS LIKES . . .**

DISLIKES: I like running and playing most sports, and reading, films and music. I dislike losing, smoking and unreliability.

FAVOURITE SINGERS: Diana Ross and Stevie Wonder

FAVOURITE ACTOR . . .

ACTRESS: Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Monaco

BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY: 'Southern Comfort'



Ralph Milne (orange shirt) tussles for the ball with Rangers' Alex Miller.

FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Wildlife documentaries and sports programmes

FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Relaxing, reading or watching films

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Jim McLean and Walter Smith, manager and coach at Dundee United. Walter taught me the knowledge and basics of the game, but the manager gave me the chance when I was young and motivates me

when I need it and now influences my career

SUPERSTITIONS: None

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Six Scottish youth caps and one Under-21 cap

PERSONAL AMBITION: To play for Scotland's full team, to win the treble with United and to be happy in life

IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? No idea

CAREER AFTER PLAYING:

Hopefully to stay in the game or start my own business

WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The Queen

Ralph Milne